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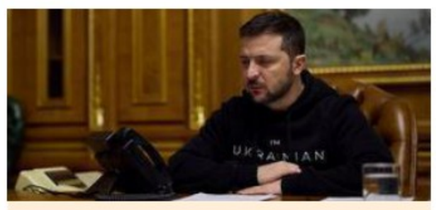

PEACE PLAN

PM Modi speaks to Ukraine President

NEWS » PAGE 8

CENTRE'S DIRECTIVE

Digital attendance for MGNREGS

NEWS » PAGE 10

PANDEMIC BATTLE

Amid COVID-19 surge, Xi seeks more steps

WORLD » PAGE 11

BILKIS BANO CASE

A dismissed review plea, an egregious error

A case of injustice that the court must rectify

EDITORIAL » PAGE 6

ON FIRE

Green bags a five-for, Aussies in control

SPORT » PAGE 13

Venugopal Dhoot

CBI arrests Videocon chief in loan fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Videocon Group chief Venugopal Dhoot, days after the arrest of ICICI Bank's former chief executive officer and managing director Chanda Kochhar and her husband, Deepak Kochhar, in a case related to the credit facilities extended to the group companies.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Concocted history led to a sense of inferiority: PM

Modi says a nation like India with such a glorious history must be full of self-confidence and self-respect; new India is correcting the mistakes of the bygone decades by restoring its legacy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said a nation like India with such a glorious history must be full of self-confidence and self-respect, but lamented that concocted narratives taught till now had created a sense of inferiority in the country.

Mr. Modi said there was a need to get free from the narrow interpretation of the past to move forward.

"That is why the country has taken the pledge of removing all traces of slave mentality in the *Azadi ka Amrit Kaal*," he said at the celebration of first Veer Bal Divas, which commemorates the martyrdom of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh, Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh.

Remembering martyrs: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Veer Bal Divas event in New Delhi on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Last January, the Prime Minister announced that December 26 would be observed as Veer Bal Divas.

"Any country with such a glorious history must be full of self-confidence and self-respect. However, concocted narratives are taught to infuse inferiority. There is a need to get free from the narrow interpretation of the past to move forward," he said.

Mr. Modi said the new India was correcting the mistakes of the bygone decades by restoring its long-lost legacy. "When the core values of a nation go through a transformation, the future of the nation changes with time. The values of a nation can be preserved only when the present generations have clarity about the history of the land," he said.

"The youth always seek a role model to learn and find inspiration. That is the reason we believe in the ideals of Lord Ram, find inspiration from Gautam Buddha and Lord Mahavir, and make an attempt to live through the sayings of Guru Nanak Dev, while also studying the ways of Maharana Pratap and Chhatrapati Veer Shivaji."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

'New Year's Eve parties should be over by 1 a.m.'

The government has said that all large assemblies shall strictly be outdoor and as far as possible in the day. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The New Year's Eve parties on December 31 and the New Year celebrations on January 1 would have to be wound up by 1 a.m., according to the new COVID-19 guidelines issued by the State government on Monday. The guidelines also advised senior citizens, pregnant and lactating women, and children to avoid New Year gatherings. Masks, thermal screening, and hand sanitisers have also been mandatory for indoor events.

"All large assemblies shall strictly be outdoor and as far as possible in the day, avoiding chills of the late night and early morning. The prescribed capacity of the areas shall not be exceeded, particularly in the indoor areas (seating like hotels), pubs, restaurants, clubs, resorts, et cetera," said Randeep D., Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Services. The guidelines also stated that N-95 masks should be worn mandatorily by those who go to cinemas.

While continuing 2% random testing for international arrivals at the Bengaluru and Mangaluru airports, Bowring Hospital in Bengaluru and Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru have been announced as designated quarantine facilities for symptomatic passengers. There is also an option to choose the nearest private hospitals upon providing intimation to the Health Department.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3
'NO NEED TO PANIC'
» PAGE 3

NEARBY

Assembly passes Bill to hike SC/ST quota

BELAGAVI
The Legislative Assembly, on Monday, passed the Bill that increases the reservation of seats in educational institutions and jobs for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes unanimously, after a heated discussion. Legislators of both the Congress and the JD(S) announced their whole-hearted support for the Bill. » PAGE 4

'Revenue, GST collections have been robust'

BELAGAVI
Amidst a global slowdown, Karnataka has demonstrated strong economic recovery from the pandemic-induced slowdown by registering a 9.5% growth in real economy for 2021-22, according to the mid-year review of State Finances 2022-23. The report, which was tabled in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Monday, says that these figures have been derived from the provisional estimates of National Statistical Office. » PAGE 4

'Create in India', says task force on gaming, animation and VFX

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

A "Create in India" campaign with an exclusive focus on content creation; an international platform for animation, visual effects, gaming and comics (AVGC) aimed at attracting foreign direct investment, co-production treaties and innovation in collaboration with international counterparts; national and regional centres of excellence for skill development; and leveraging the National Education Policy to develop creative thinking at school level.

These are among the recommendations in the report of a task force on AVGC promotion, submitted to the government. The task force has proposed a national AVGC-Extended Reality Mission with a budget outlay to be created for the integrated promotion and growth of the sector.

The task force has proposed a national AVGC-Extended Reality Mission with a budget outlay to be created for the integrated promotion and growth of the sector. M. KARUNAKARAN

Draft national and State policies for the promotion of the sector have also been submitted by the task force, which presented the report to Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Anurag Thakur on December 22. Chaired by I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra, the brainstorming group comprised Secretaries of the associated Union Ministries, including those of Skill Development, Education, Electronics and Information Technology, besides several prominent faces of the sector.

"The Ministry of Education may advise NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) to create books focusing on subjects relevant to AVGC," the report said.

A University Grants Commission (UGC)-recognised curriculum for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees has also been suggested in the report. The task force has proposed standardisation of admission tests for AVGC-related courses.

"With an eye on the demand for 20 lakh skilled professionals in the AVGC sector in this decade, there is a need to augment skilling initiatives and enhance industry participation for training purposes and to ensure employment opportunities," a senior official said.

"Memorandum of Cooperation may be signed between India and other developed global AVGC markets – the U.S., Japan, South Korea and Germany– for providing internships (six months to a year) to Indian AVGC professionals," the report said.

The report has also recommended establishment of AVGC accelerators and innovation hubs in academic institutions; democratising AVGC technologies by promoting subscription-based pricing models for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), start-ups and institutions; indigenous technology development through incentive schemes and Intellectual Property (IP) creation; and setting up a dedicated production fund for domestic content creation from across India to promote the country's culture and heritage globally.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

On U.P. menu, food streets serving pan-India fare

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath aims to showcase the State's 'soft' power; project will likely materialise in major cities such as Lucknow, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Agra and Varanasi before the Maha Kumbh in 2025 and will serve food from various States

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Buoyant by the positive feedback received from the month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam, the Uttar Pradesh government plans to create food streets in various cities to introduce residents and tourists to cuisine from different States of India in a bid to showcase the State's 'soft' power.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked the Culture Ministry to coordinate with the Housing Department and various authorities and prepare an action plan for creating such food streets in cities that will serve dishes from various States.

Confluence of cultures: A group from Tamil Nadu at Varanasi for the Kashi Tamil Sangamam earlier this month. V.V. KRISHNAN

The project will likely materialise in major cities such as Lucknow, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Agra and Varanasi before the Maha Kumbh to be held in Prayagraj in 2025.

Addressing a Culture Ministry function, Mr. Adityanath said, "Food streets will introduce people to food from different States and they will know what to look for when they travel to States such as Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

In these dedicated food streets, people can get food not only from different parts of the country but also from regional cuisines such as Bhojpuri, Awadhi, Bundelkhandi and Braj in Uttar Pradesh and Garhwal and Kumaon in Uttarakhand."

The government is giving a push to such initiatives with an aim to project Uttar Pradesh as an inclusive State and counter, what it alleges, "misconceptions" about the State formed due to negative "propaganda run by some vested interests".

Clearing the air

"Twelve groups from Tamil Nadu were in Kashi for a month. These groups also visited Ayodhya and Prayagraj. This cultural exchange cleared the Tamils' misconceptions about Uttar Pradesh and north India which they had formed due to negative propaganda run by some vested interests," the Chief Minister said.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

China sends 71 warplanes and 7 ships towards Taiwan

71 The number of warplanes along with seven ships that China's military sent towards Taiwan in a 24-hour display of force directed at the island. This came after China expressed anger at Taiwan-related provisions in a U.S. annual defence spending Bill. China's military has often used large military exercises as a demonstration of force in response to U.S.'s support of Taiwan. *AP*

PLI scheme for textiles attracts ₹1,536 crore in investments

1536 In rupees crore, the investments attracted by production-linked incentive scheme for India's textiles sector. The Centre launched the PLI Scheme with an approved outlay of ₹10,683 crore to promote the production of MMF apparel, MMF fabrics and Products of Technical Textiles to enable the textiles industry to become competitive. PTI

India's agriculture and allied commodities export up by 12%

11.97 The percentage by which India's export of agriculture and allied commodities rose to $30.21 billion during the April-October period, the Agriculture Ministry said. The exports stood at $26.98 billion in the same period of 2021-22. Wheat, basmati, cotton, castor oil, and fresh fruits were major commodities exported from India. PTI

Mother Dairy hikes milk prices by ₹2 per litre in NCR region

66 In rupees, the price of Mother Dairy's full cream milk after the latest hike of ₹2 per litre in Delhi-NCR market with effect from Tuesday. The fifth round of hikes in milk prices this year by Mother Dairy, will also revise the price of toned milk to ₹53 per litre. Mother Dairy attributed the hike to increase in the company's procurement cost of raw milk from dairy farmers. PTI

₹104 crore sanctioned by Delhi government for COVID preparation

104 In rupees crore, the amount sanctioned by the Delhi government for hospitals to procure medicines as part of preparations to deal with a surge in COVID cases. Data on the availability of beds, oxygen cylinders and ventilators will be available on a Delhi government portal from Tuesday, officials said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The House report on Capitol attack

What are the final findings of the House panel? What charges has it accused Donald Trump of? What are its recommendations and what real impact can the report have?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

"The central cause of January 6th was one man, former President Donald Trump...None of the events of January 6th would have happened without him," concluded the U.S. House Select Committee in its final report released on Thursday, December 22, after an 18-month-long probe in which it conducted over 1,000 interviews, 10 public hearings, and collected millions of documents as part of the evidence.

What are the findings of the panel?

The nine-member Select Committee was launched in July 2021 by the U.S. Congress for the purpose of investigating the armed attack on Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021, by far-right groups such as Proud Boys and Oathkeepers, and former President Donald Trump's supporters, which resulted in the death of five persons, injuries to 140 police personnel, and large scale destruction of property.

Lawmakers in a Joint Session of Congress on January 6 were set to certify the electoral college vote and Joe Biden's presidency; the session was to be presided over then Vice President Mike Pence. The 814-page final report describes through eight chapters, the "multi-part conspiracy" by Mr. Trump and his aides to "overturn the lawful results of the 2020 Presidential election".

The report enlists 17 key findings. It notes that from the night of the election in November 2020 to the day of the attack next year, Mr. Trump, despite no evidential proof, "purposely disseminated false allegations of fraud related to the 2020 presidential election", alleging the race was "stolen" from him. "These false claims provoked his supporters to violence on January 6."

The report says the former President addressed multiple public gatherings making false claims of voter fraud and raised funds amounting to a quarter of a billion dollars between the election and January 6.

By the time the electoral college met to cast and certify the votes of each State on December 14, 2020, the Justice Department (DoJ) and Homeland Security had concluded that there was no fraud, and White House officials and his own family members urged Mr. Trump to concede.

He instead hired a new legal team headed by his lawyer Rudolph Giuliani, which then lost dozens of lawsuits alleging voter fraud in various States and federal courts.

After the lawsuits failed, Mr. Trump began to pressure his deputy Mike Pence to refuse the counting of electoral college votes of some States. He also pressured States to prepare and submit fake electoral slates to Congress.

Final verdict: The U.S. House Select Committee ruled that the events of January 6th would not have happened without Donald Trump. REUTERS

In the chapters related to the day of the violence itself, the report notes that in a tweet on in December 2020, Mr. Trump "summoned tens of thousands of supporters to Washington for January 6th", and instructed them to "take back" their country". In a segment titled "187 minutes of dereliction", it describes how Mr. Trump, despite being informed that the rioters had started their attack, refused over a multiple-hour period to make a statement that would stop his supporters and watched the riots on *Fox News*, till finally being persuaded to give a video statement asking the rioters to go home.

What are the panel's suggestions?

The Committee recommended four criminal charges against Trump to the DoJ – aiding an insurrection, obstructing an official proceeding, conspiracy to defraud the U.S., and conspiracy to make a false statement. It recommended that using the 14th amendment, Mr. Trump be barred from ever holding federal or State office again.

The Select Committee's recommendations and criminal referrals to the DoJ, however, are eventually symbolic and don't bind the Justice Department to act against Mr. Trump. The panel also has no constitutional path to debar him from standing for 2024, which he has already announced his candidacy for. He is currently facing multiple federal investigations, including probes of his role in the attack and the presence of classified documents at Mar-a-Lago. The term of the Committee will also end on January 3, and House Democrats are ceding power to Republicans in less than two weeks.

THE GIST

After over 1,000 interviews, 10 public hearings, and collecting millions of documents, the U.S. House Select Committee released its final report on the January 6 Capitol attack on December 22.

The report said that former President Donald Trump "purposely disseminated false allegations of fraud related to the 2020 presidential election", alleging the race was "stolen" from him. "These false claims provoked his supporters to violence on January 6."

The Committee recommended four criminal charges against Mr. Trump to the DoJ — aiding an insurrection, obstructing an official proceeding, conspiracy to defraud the U.S., and conspiracy to make a false statement. It recommended that using the 14th amendment, Mr. Trump be barred from ever holding federal or State office again.

What is the Delhi HC verdict on 'Rooh Afza' trademark?

What constitutes a strong trademark? What were the reasons listed by the court while deciding to halt the manufacture and sale of beverages under the trademark 'Dil Afza'?

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

On December 21, the Delhi High Court, in the case of Hamdard National Foundation (India) vs Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., restrained Sadar Laboratories from manufacturing and selling beverages under the impugned trademark 'Dil Afza'. The court observed that the trademark 'Rooh Afza' is *prima facie* a strong mark requiring a high degree of protection as it has acquired immense goodwill.

What is a trademark?

A trademark is a distinctive sign or indicator used by a business organisation to distinguish its products or services from those of other entities. It serves as a badge of origin exclusively identifying a particular business as a source of goods or services. Trademark infringement is the unauthorised usage of a sign that is identical or deceptively similar to a registered trademark.

What is the dispute?

The manufacturers of 'Rooh Afza' moved an appeal against the rejection of its application seeking an interim injunction against Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. for their product 'Dil Afza'. The appellant stated before the court that the trademark 'Rooh Afza' is a highly reputed mark in the market with regard to sharbat (sweet beverage). Furthermore, it was claimed that the design of the product 'Dil Afza' is deceptively similar to the get-up and trade dress of the appellant's product.

What was the court's verdict?

A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court restrained the respondent (Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.) from manufacturing and selling any product under the trademark 'Dil Afza' till the final disposal of the trademark infringement suit. The court held that "it is not difficult to conceive that a person who looks at the label of 'Dil Afza' may recall the label of 'Rooh Afza' as the word 'Afza' is common and the meaning of the words 'Rooh' and 'Dil', when translated in English, are commonly used in conjunction. In the case of M/s Kirorimal Kashiram Marketing & Agencies Pvt. Ltd. vs M/s Shree Sita Chawal Udyog Mil, the Delhi High Court observed that "it is not permissible to copy a prominent part of the registered trademark of another person" and restrained the respondent from using the trademark 'Golden Deer' as it was deceptively similar to the plaintiff's registered trademark 'Double Deer' with regards to rice.

What is a strong trademark?

A mark is said to be strong when it is well-known and has acquired a high degree of goodwill. The degree of the protection of any trademark changes with the strength of the mark; the stronger the mark, the higher the requirement to protect it. "Rooh Afza requires more protection as it is more likely to be subjected to piracy by those who seek to draw an undue advantage of its goodwill", the judgment said.

What were the Court's rationales?

Firstly, the impugned trademark 'Dil Afza' has a phonetic similarity with 'Rooh Afza'. Secondly, "if recall from memory is triggered by the English meaning of the words 'ROOH' and 'DIL', the fact that heart and soul is a commonly used phrase, provides a common conceptual background". Thirdly, the trade dress of the impugned trade mark, which consists of the bottle's shape, design, the placement of the house mark, colourfully busy design of the label, are the material contributors to the commercial impression of the competing trademark. Lastly, the value of the product was taken into consideration as well. The court held that as the product is a low-priced consumable item, "the average customer would not deliberate on the details of the product as one would do while taking a high-value investment decision".

Kartikey Singh reads law at the Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (RGNUL)

THE GIST

The manufacturers of the beverage 'Rooh Afza' moved an appeal in the Delhi High Court seeking an interim injunction against Sadar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. for their product 'Dil Afza'

A Division Bench cited common words in the labels and similar words that can be used in conjunctionas it ruled in favour of Hamdard National Foundation (India), the makers of 'Rooh Afza'

The court also said that as the product is a low-priced consumable item, "the average customer would not deliberate on the details of the product as one would do while taking a high-value investment decision".

Controversies cast a shadow over education sector

Even as Karnataka witnessed rows over the wearing of hijab and over the new government textbooks, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party also faced allegations of saffronisation of education

REWIND 2022

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A file photo of students wearing hijab outside their school after being denied entry and (right) students wearing hijab and saffron shawl in Udupi district. PTI AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The education sector in Karnataka was dogged by a series of controversies in 2022, most of them emanating from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's ideological stance.

The hijab row

The year began with six students at a government pre-university college in Udupi protesting and demanding that they be allowed to wear hijab inside the classroom. As the government issued a circular to maintain a status quo on the hijab rule, other colleges in the district also disallowed girls from wearing the hijab inside college campuses, leading to vocal protests. The issue soon went out of hand as a section of Hindu students sported saffron shawls inside classrooms, polarising campuses on religious lines and creating a deeply divided student body across the State.

On March 15, the High Court of Karnataka, hearing petitions filed by the students of the Udupi college seeking permission to wear hijab inside classrooms, upheld the rights of the managements of colleges, where there is a uniform prescribed, to ban hijab inside classrooms. The Supreme Court on October 13 delivered a split verdict hearing a challenge to the High Court order and the matter is now pending before a larger Bench.

Textbook row

The textbooks prepared by the textbook revision committee, led by Rohith Chakrathirtha, a known proponent of the Hindutva ideology, stirred up a hornet's nest in the State. The new textbooks included a lesson by RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar and dropped several lessons by progressive authors. The books turned controversial as several caste organisations also took objections to lessons on Narayana Guru being dropped, lessons on B.R. Ambedkar and Basavanna edited objectionably, among others.

Vokkaligas objected to the alleged insult to Kuvempu by Mr. Chakrathirtha leading to protests on the streets. Several prominent writers like Devanur Mahadeva and Roopa Hassan withdrew permission to use their write-ups in the textbooks, despite which the government has decided to teach them for the academic year 2022-23.

The government's decision to include the Bhagavad Gita in the moral education curriculum also drew the ire of educationists. The government had to withdraw an order to implement Vedic Mathematics classes for SC and ST students in gram panchayats under the funds of the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribals Sub Plan (TSP), following vocal protests by Dalit organisations.

The allegations of the saffronisation of education took on a literal connotation, when the government decided to paint 8,000-odd new classrooms across the State saffron, branding them as "Viveka Classrooms". Following strong protests, the government claimed the colour of the classrooms will be decided by the contractors.

CET-2022 ranking

In the higher education sector, the CET-2022 rankings and counselling was chaotic owing to confusion over the ranking criteria of over 24,000 repeaters.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) announced a ranking on July 30, considering CET marks and II PU marks in a 50:50 ratio for freshers and only CET marks for repeaters.

This, they argued, was because the repeaters had passed II PU without any exams in 2021 due to the pandemic. However, this was challenged in the High Court, which set aside the CET-2022 ranking. Later, a new ranking was announced on October 1 following the criteria suggested by an expert panel to bring parity between freshers and repeaters.

UGC to transform higher education institutions into multi-disciplinary hubs

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A section of educationists has opposed this draft fearing that the UGC was planning to close most of the government and aided degree colleges. FILE PHOTO

Under the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), the University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to transform higher education institutions (HEIs) into multi-disciplinary institutions, and has released the Prof. R.P. Tiwari-headed expert committee draft guidelines aimed at achieving this goal.

The committee has suggested multiple ways of turning HEIs into multi-disciplinary centres.

The guidelines state: "Academic collaboration between institutions, through HEI clusters, leading to multi-disciplinary education and research in different modes, merger of single stream institutions with other multi-disciplinary institutions under the same management or different managements, strengthening of institutions by adding departments in subjects such as languages, literature, music, philosophy, Indology, art, dance, theatre, education, mathematics, statistics, pure and applied sciences, sociology, economics, sports, translation and interpretation and other subjects are the major objectives of the transformation of HEIs into multi-disciplinary institutions. It will help students to shape their career options."

"The quintessence of Higher Education Institution (HEI), as envisioned in the NEP 2020, is one which builds vibrant communities of scholars and peers, breaks down harmful silos between disciplines and enables students to become well-rounded individuals. However, a substantial number of HEIs in the country are either single stream institutions or multi-disciplinary institutions with rigid disciplinary boundaries. Therefore, transforming HEIs into multi-disciplinary institutions is highly needed," states the report.

The Prof. Tiwari committee cites examples of "recognition of limitless learning in the Vedic period" and ancient institutions, such as Nalanda and Takshashila, as inspiration for the transformation. These higher learning centres of ancient India were known for teaching every branch of knowledge, such as singing, painting, chemistry, mathematics, vocational fields such as carpentry, cloth-making, professional fields such as medicine and engineering, and soft skills such as communication, discussion and debate, states to the report.

"India has domain-specific standalone colleges and universities. Internationally, the culture of establishing and sustaining a multi-disciplinary university is increasing fast, thereby maximising productivity with enhanced focus towards research and development, innovation and incubation. Large multi-disciplinary HEIs to be established in or near every district by 2030 is one of the most significant recommendations in the NEP 2020," according to the report.

B. Thimmegowda, Vice Chairman for Karnataka State Higher Education Council, told *The Hindu*, "The NEP aims to develop intellectual, aesthetic, social, physical, emotional, ethical and moral facets of an individual in an integrated manner. It is very difficult to achieve this aim with our various single stream and standalone colleges and universities. Merging and transforming the HEIs into multi-disciplinary institutions is highly needed."

However, some educationists in Karnataka have opposed this draft and stated that, citing multi-disciplinary institutions, the UGC is planning to close most of the government and aided degree colleges, which are the last resort of higher education for students in rural areas, or those who come from socially and economically backward sections of society.

Sripad Bhat, an educationist, said, "Through multi-disciplinary institutions, Prof. Tiwari-headed committee has concentrated only on career options of students. Also, the references to Vedas exposes the hidden agenda. They have not mentioned anything about our constitutional values. In the name of multi-disciplinary institutions, the UGC is planning to close most of the government and aided degree colleges."

BU decides to restrict public vehicles from Nagarbhavi side, asks BBMP to find alternative

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore University (BU) has decided to restrict public vehicles on the road connecting Mysuru Road via Jnana Bharathi campus from Nagarbhavi junction and has written to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to find an alternative road.

In the letter to the Chief Commissioner of the BBMP, the Registrar of Bangalore University has said: "Heavy traffic on the way to Jnana Bharathi campus, which is connected to Mysuru Road from Nagarabhavi junction, has disturbed educational activities. In recent days, the number of accidents has also increased on this road and we have decided to restrict the public vehicles on this road. Therefore, find an alternative road for public vehicles."

After the death of a postgraduate student, Shilpashree, who was run over by a BMTC bus on October 10, there was outrage among university students, who demanded restriction on public vehicles, passing via the Jnana Bharathi campus.

University authorities and public representatives had promised to restrict public vehicles on the campus.

However, they restricted the vehicles from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. only. But accidents continued to occur. Therefore, the university decided to completely restrict vehicles on the road

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Jayakar S., Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, said: "Heavy traffic and a series of accidents at Janana Bharathi have affected educational activities. Therefore, we decided to restrict public vehicles from Nagarabhavi junction and wrote a letter to the BBMP to find an alternative road. After a proper response from the BBMP, we will take an appropriate decision."

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayath, Raichur

No:ZPR/Develop/Smart Classs/E-Tender/2022-23 Dated:19.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-procurement)

On Turn-key basis Tenders are invited through e-procurement for the following works by the Deputy Secretary, Zilla Panchayath,Raichur on the behalf of Governor of Karnataka from the contractors registered in Zilla Panchayath, Raichur as per the schedule given below:

(Primary/Secondary/Higher School - Smart Class Equipments)
(28 School's - Total Amount Rs.67.20 lakhs)

1) Issue of Blank Tender Documents from :19.12.2022.2) Receipt of completed tender documents:05.01.2023 3) Technical Bid opening on:06.01.2023 at Jal Nirmal Meeting Hall Zilla Panchayath, Raichur 4) Head of Account :2515-00-197-1-07-300 (2515-00-102-0-62-059 -Link code- TP Grant Sindhanur) 5)E-mail IDceo_zp_rch@nic.in& zpraichurceo@gmail.com

Further details can be obtained by logging on the http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIP/Raichur/506/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Cheif Executive Officer, ZillaPanchayath, Raichur.

BBMP plans to use AI to survey 1,434 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads in city

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

For the first time, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will use artificial intelligence (AI) based surveys to identify the condition of 1,434 km arterial and sub-arterial roads in the city.

Last year, the civic body conducted a pilot project on the AI-based survey of roads for 15 kilometres.

Based on this, the BBMP has called for a tender for an agency to conduct the survey.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said: "By using artificial intelligence, we will identify various issues such as the presence of proper signboards, kilometre stones, etc. A vehicle with an AI technology camera will be used to take videos of the roads."

According to BBMP officials, the AI-based survey will also find out the condition of potholes, missing metal beam crash barriers, damaged kerbs, and the working status of streetlights, and solar blinkers.

A senior official from the BBMP said that the AI system will make sure that the quality of the roads improves after the survey.

"We can identify the exact issues and resolve them soon. For instance, through the AI, we find potholes at particular spots. An immediate alert is sent to the officer concerned, the pothole can be filled, and the repair work details can be uploaded," the official explained.

"The AI system will be put on a vehicle with a camera, which will be surveying the roads, both during the day and during the night. The survey will be conducted at least four times per year," the official added.

Earlier, in the pilot project, the BBMP had surveyed 15 kilometres of roads and spent around ₹5 lakh, according to officials.

"For 15 kilometres, ₹5 lakh is costly. However, if any agencies come forward to get it done at a cheaper cost, we can implement the AI-based survey in the city," said Mr. Nath.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that my clients **Mr. Vijay Mahadeva and Mrs. Ramyashree Doddappa,** both residing at B-908 Segment 3 Brigade Omega, 80 feet Rod, BSK 6th Stage 2nd Block Bangalore 560061 entered into an agreement of Sale Dated 04-12-2022 with **Mrs. Sujatha Rao** to purchase the property mentioned in the schedule Property. If any person/ entity has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the said property or any part, thereof, such a person submit his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be deemed that there are no claims, right, title, interest and objections and my clients shall proceed with the purchase of the said property from the owner.

::SCHEDULE PROPERTY::

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site bearing **No.389,** B.B.M.P Katha No.389, in the Layout formed by the Bank Officers and Officials House Building Co-operative Society Limited, Doddakallasandra **II Stage, I Block,** situated at **THIPPASANDRA VILLAGE, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** measuring East to West **40-0 feet,** and North to South **30-0 feet,** in all measuring **1200-0 Square Feet,** presently under BBMP Limited, Bangalore Ward No 196-Anjanapura and bounded on::

EAST BY : Site No.390; WEST BY : Site No.388; NORTH BY : Road; SOUTH BY : Site No.409;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-500 020.
Contact : 9740718436

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi, Pin Code.585 102.
Phone No : 9448359013 E-mail: eeetpgescom@gmail.com

No: GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(Tech)/EEE(Tech)/AEE-1(Tech)//AE-1(Tech)/2022-23/47382-98
Dt:- 26-12-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-procurement mode only)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited, Kalaburagi invites bids from the eligible bidders for **"Creation of infrastructures for arranging power supply to anticipated applications for FY 2022-23 (From November-22 to March-23) and FY 2023-24 (From April-23 to October-23) under Ganga Kalyan Schemes of various Corporations and Rural Drinking Water Supply Schemes in rural areas of O&M Division, GESCOM Kalaburagi-1** (Bid Enq no:TP-042 /GK&WS /2022-23 /Kalaburagi-1 and Approximate amount put to tender: **537.31 Lakhs), Kalaburagi-2** (Bid Enq no:TP-043/GK&WS/2022-23/ Kalaburagi-2 and Approximate amount put to tender: **369.36 Lakhs)**, **Hospet Urban** (Bid Enq no:TP-044 /GK&WS /2022-23 /Hospet Urban and Approximate amount put to tender: **179.10 Lakhs)**, **Hospet Rural** (Bid Enq no: TP-045 /GK&WS /2022-23 /Hospet Rural Division and Approximate amount put to tender: **537.31 Lakhs)** and **Koppal** (Bid Enq no:TP-046 /GK&WS /2022-23 /Koppal Division and Approximate amount put to tender: **279.81 Lakhs) under PTK Rate Contract Basis"** (Distribution Transformer will be supplied by GESCOM) for a period of 01 year, extendable by one more Year at the discretion of GESCOM.

The interested bidders may log on to Government Web Site Address: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after Dated: **29.12.2022.**

DIP/Kalaburagi/1013/MC&A/2022-23

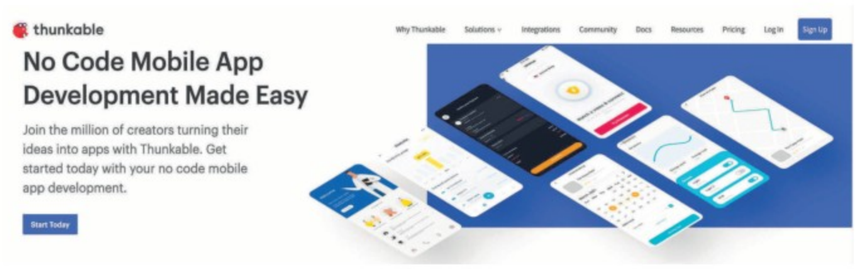
Sd/- Chief Engineer Elecy., Operation, GESCOM, Kalaburagi.

TOOLBOX

A mobile-development platform for novices

Mobile apps have become an integral part of our daily lives, enabling us to stay connected, access information, and perform a wide range of tasks on the go. However, for many individuals, the technical knowledge required to create their own mobile app can be a major barrier. Thunkable is a low-code mobile app development platform that allows anyone, regardless of their technical skills, to easily create their own mobile app. By **Priya Nupur**

Thunkable: A Low-Code Mobile App Development Platform for Non-Technical Users



Why Thunkable?

It is a great tool for anyone who wants to create apps for their personal use or for work. It provides a variety of templates, so you can start your project with ease.

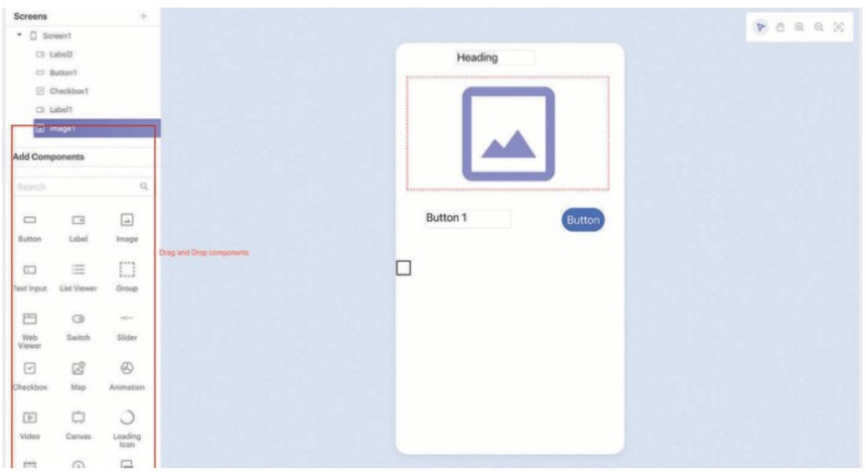
What is Thunkable?

Thunkable is a prototype creation tool that allows you to create prototypes for your web and mobile applications. The main features of the tool are: drag and drop, gestures, animations, transitions, etc.

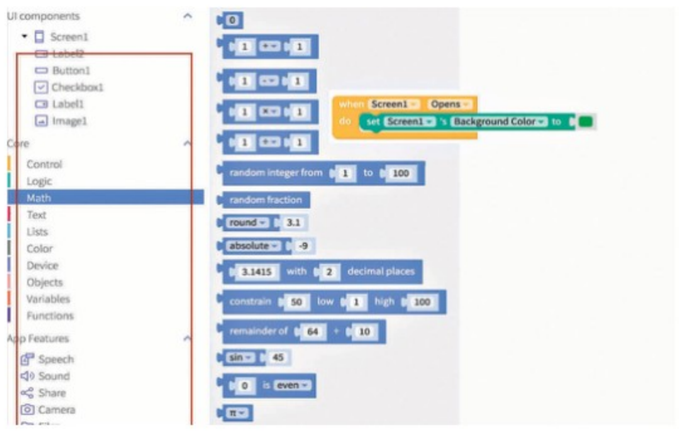
The prototype can be exported as a video or an animated gif that can be shared with others. The benefit of using Thunkable is that it creates interactive prototypes without the need to code or design anything by hand.

Thunkable Features & Benefits

■ **Drag and Drop components:** Thunkable in true sense is a no code tool. The extensive set of drag and drop tools make it really easy for the user to design the app as per their choice and needs.



Advanced Core Functionalities: Thunkable supports a lot of logic support without writing even a single line of code. The UI components are exceptionally powerful and they provide a range of support from designing functions, defining variables and actions on the components in question.

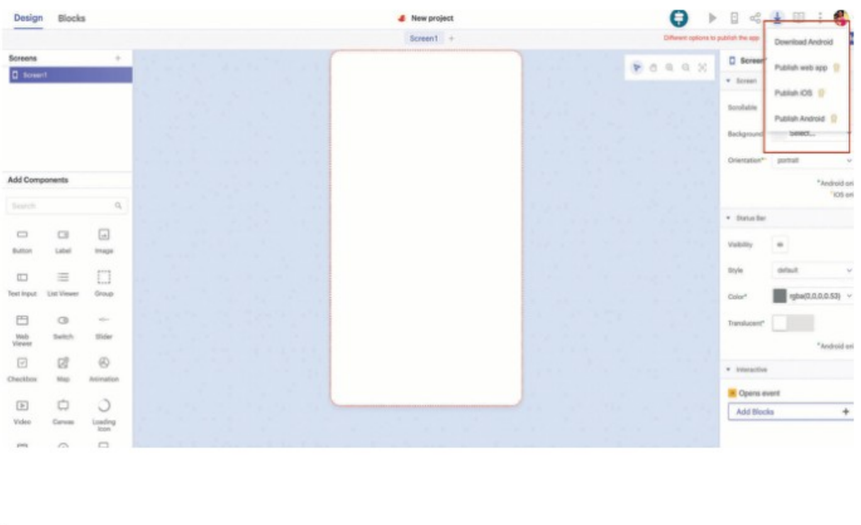


Supports different platforms: We can build powerful applications using Thunkable and deploy across multiple platforms like android and ios. It is exceptionally easy to test and deploy.

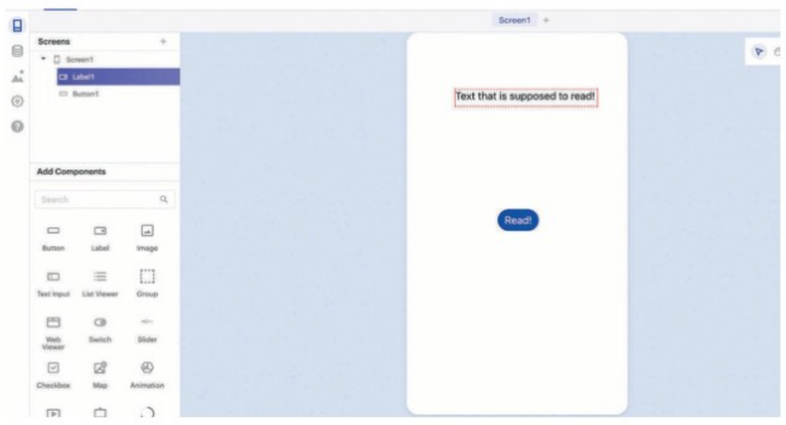
Safe and seamless Integration with 3rd party platforms: When we build apps there are scenarios where we need to integrate them with other third party sources. Thunkable provides seamless integration with a lot of commonly used third party apps and saves us from a lot of hassle.

Sample app creation using Thunkable in just 5 minutes!

Now that we have discussed so much about Thunkable, let's try to create a very simple text to speech conversion app using thunkable and see if it works. Like I mentioned it will take just 5 minutes!



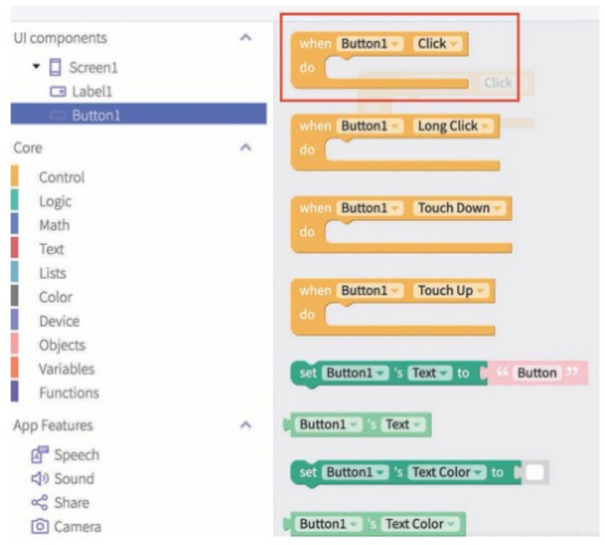
Designing the basic layout: The first step is definitely to design the screen of the text to speech system. When we open Thunkable we will see a plethora of components in the add component section of the screen. Let's design the app using these components. Using the given components I have designed a very basic screen which has a label component with some text and a button called read. For now, if you run the app using the play button on the screen since, we have just designed the front screen



Let's add action to it!: Now that our app screen is ready, we need to navigate to the block tab which will give us the flexibility to add action to the UI that we created

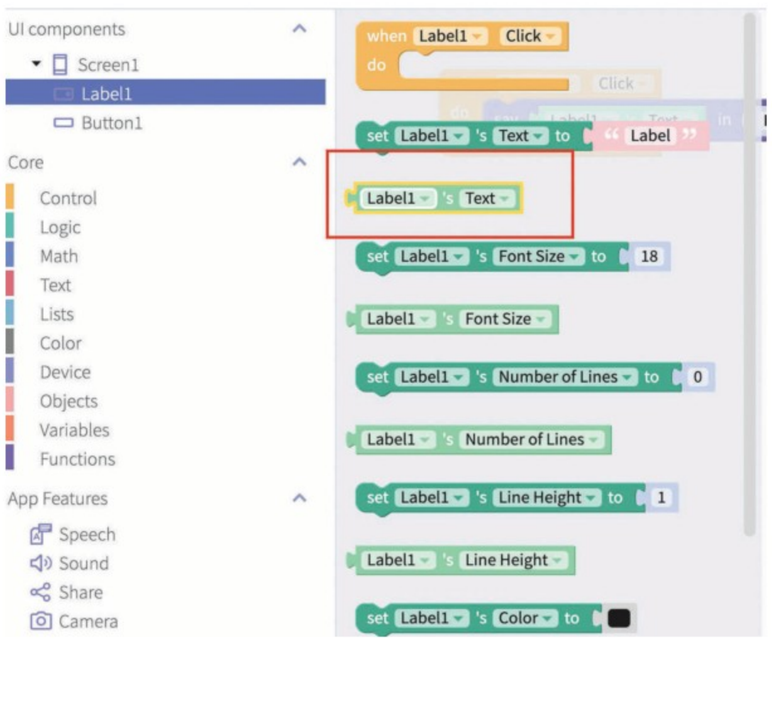
There are three steps to this action:

Click on the button: For this we need to click the button component in the left hand side tab and select the when button click event.

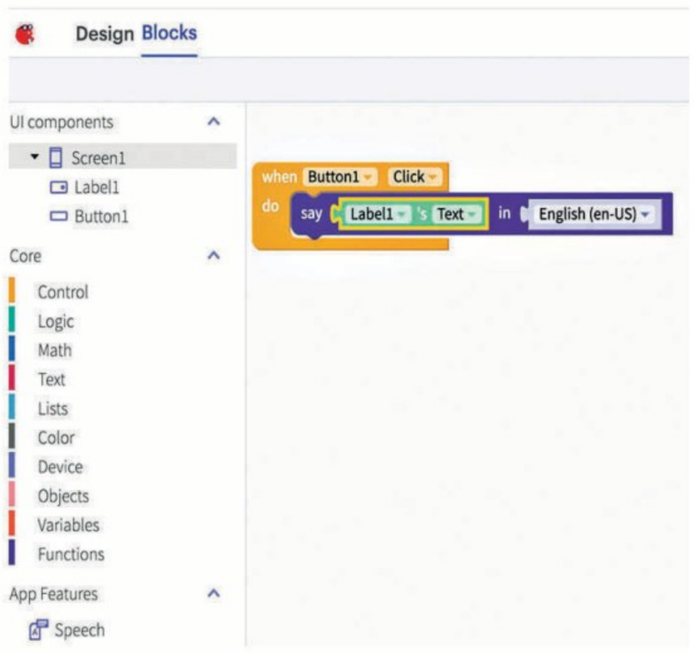


Enable it to speak - The way this event will work is when we click on the button the label text should be read out so, we will use one of the snippets available under sound to speak out the text and plug it to the button

Embed the label that needs to be read - Now that we have an event which clicks on the button and an event which reads the text, we now need to plug in as to what text is to be read. For this purpose we can use the snippet to get text of a label,

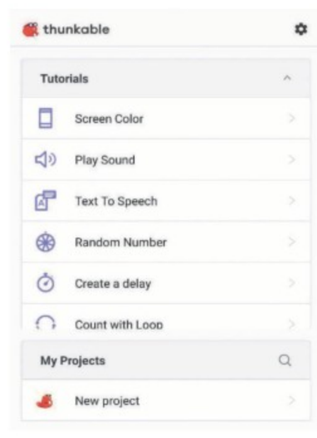


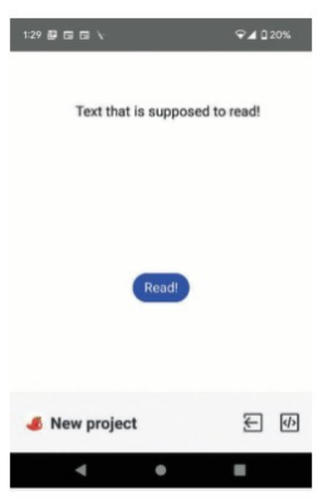
Stitching all this together we have the final block of events which will look like this:



When we play this using the web preview button then we will see the app in action clicking on the Read button will read out the text! So yes, we have created our first text to speech app in just 5 mins!

■ **Testing & Publishing the app:** Since we have created our first app, let's try and test it on a real device. Depending on the OS that your phone has, install the Thunkable app from the corresponding store. After installation, open up the app and you will see the same app that you were creating ready to be tested from your phone. Once you are done testing the next step will be publishing the app. Thunkable gives a one click download and publish after choosing a membership subscription. Based on wherever you would like to publish, Thunkable will help publish.





So yes, we have created our first app and tested it in less than 5 mins!

Thunkable offers a unique and valuable platform for app creation that can benefit individuals in any profession. We touched a little bit on this in the earlier section but in this tech savvy world no matter what profession you are in whether you are a student, teacher, doctor, architect, seller, buyer you need faster and automated ways of doing things, this is where the ability to create apps come in handy.

Just to give a few examples, students can try out Thunkable to create projects which can give them confidence and flavour of what it is like to work with apps. Lot of sellers are using Thunkable to create online presence from their stores which can further facilitate online purchase. Teachers can use this app to come up with study and assessment modules for their students. Doctors are using this to create small hospital management systems and interactive chat apps to support patients.

In short, taking the first step in learning a new tool can be daunting, especially if your profession does not directly relate to the tech world, but Thunkable makes it easy and accessible for anyone to start creating their own apps. We have a platform with limitless possibilities that has been made possible by Thunkable. We need to learn how to leverage it and get our imagination to play!

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on the autonomous regions of post-Franco Spain

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

A post-fascist country since December 1978, Spain is formally a regionalised unitary state with limited autonomy for nationalities. Which region's head of government is called the Lehendakari in its native language? And what is the native language?

QUESTION 2

Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro originated from this autonomous region of Spain and came to Cuba first as a conscript of the Spanish military. The former Uruguayan president Tabare Vasquez has ancestors from this region. The region also has a distinctive language that is close to Portuguese. Name the region.

QUESTION 3

The name of this province originates from an Arabic word that is derived from the name of the Vandals, a Germanic people who first inhabited what is now the southern part of Poland in second century BC and later migrated into North Africa by around early part of the 5th century AD. Name the province

QUESTION 4

In 2021, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen won this award (for social science) that is named after the heir apparent to the throne of Spain and contains the name of a province in it. Name the award and the province. (Others who won the same award include David Attenborough in 2009 and Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo in 2015)

QUESTION 5

Tennis player Rafael Nadal is from this province and autonomous community of Spain. Name it

Visual question:

Identify the autonomous community whose flag is shown in the picture. WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Why is December 26 called Boxing Day? **Ans: Alms boxes placed in churches were opened on this day also the day on which servants, tradespeople, and the poor traditionally were presented with gifts..**
2. According to the song 'Twelve Days of Christmas', what did the true love send? **Ans: Two turtledoves and a partridge in a pear tree**
3. This world-famous South African bishop, an anti-apartheid and human rights activist, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, passed away on December 26, 2021. Name him. **Ans: Desmond Tutu**
4. Name the ground where the the 'Boxing Day' Test match is played. **Ans: Melbourne**
5. PM Modi set December 26 to pay homage to the sons of which Sikh Guru? **Ans: Guru Gobind Singh.**
6. Where was the epicentre of the earthquake that set off the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004? **Ans: Sumatra, Indonesia**
7. On this date in 1991, the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union gathered to make which announcement? **Ans: Dissolve the Soviet Union and ending the Cold War**

Visual: The country from where Tadej Pogačar, the winner of the Tour de France in 2020 and 2021, comes is celebrating its independence today. Name it. **Ans: Slovenia.**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan – Alankar Kaushik – Kritika Rajput – Astitva Singh

Sudhakar says no need to panic about COVID-19

Out of 2,867 passengers who were tested for COVID-19 at Kempegowda International Airport in December (until 24th), 12 were found to be positive for the virus

Minister of Health K. Sudhakar checking the steps taken against COVID-19 at the Belagavi Medical College Hospital on Monday. P.K. BADIGER

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst the resurgence of a few COVID-19 norms, Health Minister K. Sudhakar on Monday assured people that there is no need to panic. He also said that out of 2,867 passengers tested at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in December (until December 24), 12 were found to be COVID-19 positive. One of the passengers who tested positive had arrived from China.

"Samples of all 12 positive cases have been sent for genomic testing to track variants of concern," he said in a tweet.

Speaking to reporters in Belagavi, he said that the positive cases do not warrant any worry or panic. "It has been more than a year since Omicron came and the sub-variants and the sub-lineages we are seeing are all Omicron itself. Hence, there is no need to worry or compare ourselves with China. Their situation is different as they imposed multiple lockdowns and sealdowns due to their zero-case policy, which in turn did not let a herd immunity develop there," he explained.

He added that while the vaccination details of China are unknown, in India people are doubly secured as the vaccine efficacy is good, as more than 80-90% population has developed herd immunity.

"Even if someone tests positive, experts have said that they might exhibit symptoms like fever or cold for one or two days. However, we should take a few precautionary measures and wear masks especially in places where there is air conditioning and no fresh air circulation, and take booster doses to stay on the safe side," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Guidelines for New Year celebrations

- Wearing of masks has been made compulsory
- Celebrations have been allowed both indoors and outdoors
- Children, pregnant women, and citizens over 60 years advised not to enter parties at hotels, resorts or clubs

Preparations

Brigade Road being decked up for the New Year celebrations in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

IISc. to be secretariat for Science 20

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) will be the secretariat for the Science 20 (S20), which is one of the several groups of the G20. The G20 is being presided over by India in 2023 and the theme of the S20 for 2023 is 'Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development'.

According to the IISc., within this broad theme, deliberations will be held in different parts of India over the course of the year.

The deliberations, at Agartala, Lakshadweep, and Bhopal, will focus on three issues: universal holistic health, clean energy for a greener future, and connecting science to society and culture.

Consultations will also include an inception meeting in Puducherry and a summit meeting in Coimbatore.

"India is uniquely placed to drive the agenda of the S20 forward. Historically, this land has served as an incubator for ideas in different spheres: political, social, economic, cultural, and also scientific. The list of discoveries and innovations made over the centuries reveals India's rich heritage of scientific inquiry - in architecture, astronomy, mathematics, medicine, metallurgy, textiles, ship-building, town planning, textiles, and more," IISc. said.

The G20 is an inter-government forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union.

C-CAMP collaborates with Swiss organisation to tackle resistant bacterial infections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) has joined hands with a Swiss not-for-profit organization, Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), to tackle the global problem of resistant bacterial infections.

C-CAMP said that both parties have a joint aspiration to assist in fast-tracking the clinical development, validation and integration of innovative diagnostic solutions for anti-microbial resistance (AMR) into the health system, for access by end-users including clinicians, laboratories, and hospitals.

The letter of intent has been signed for the collaboration.

"This collaboration would allow C-CAMP to leverage its significant network in the Indian innovation ecosystem to identify, nurture, and scale up innovative solutions in India and beyond. Our collaboration with GARDP will help especially in clinical development and validation of C-CAMP-supported AMR solutions, with the larger goal of driving sustainable and ethical access to emerging technologies. This access will be crucial to bending the growing curve of AMR in India and abroad," said Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO-Director of C-CAMP.

Francois Franceschi, Head of Asset Evaluation and Development at GARDP, said that the letter of intent with C-CAMP recognises the significant role India plays in providing global AMR solutions.

"It is an important opportunity to explore synergies in evaluating and providing feedback for the clinical development of urgently needed solutions." Dr. Franceschi said.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

KJC Organises Voter ID Awareness Drive

Commemorating the Constitution Day, the Department of Political Science, National Service Scheme (NSS) and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) at Kristu Jayanti College (KJC) Autonomous, in collaboration with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), organized a Voter ID registration drive from 22nd to 25th November 2022. Registration kiosks were set up at three different venues at Kristu Jayanti College for students to inquire about the electoral process and the voter's identity cards. Over 200 students enrolled in the voter's list under the guidance of two BBMP officers and 15 student volunteers. The three-day drive concluded with a voter's awareness rally from Kristu Jayanti College to K Narayanapura Main Road on Friday afternoon, November 25, 2022. Students held placards, distributed pamphlets, and raised slogans to create awareness among the people around the vicinity about the importance of voting and the electoral process.

NMIT felicitates the IFMR Biker group

The Management of Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology (NMIT) Bengaluru felicitated the heptad biker group from the 'International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians-India' (IFMR India) which included Arun Belur, Naveen Kumar, Rajesh, Shanmugham, Ajith Ram and Shashidhar for completing the 11-day Rotary 'Unity Ride for Heart' from Bengaluru to Attari Punjab, in September 2022. The bikers travelled 3,000 km from Bengaluru to Attari in Punjab to create awareness and raise funds for the treatment of Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) affecting infants. Funds for the fuel expenses for this entire journey were borne by NMIT. Rohit Punja, the Administrator of Nitte Education Trust, enunciated the increasing risk of CHD among children and praised the bikers for their contributions. The bikers also participated in the interaction program with the students. Dr H.C. Nagaraj, Principal, NMIT; Dr V. Sridhar, Dean Academics, NMIT; Event Coordinator Prof. Prashanth N and Dr N. Nalini, Dean Students Welfare, NMIT were present on the occasion.

RBANMS hosts Bengaluru City University Inter Collegiate Football Tournament

RBANMS First Grade College hosted Bengaluru City University Inter Collegiate Football Tournament on 30 November 2022 at RBANM's ground (SUFC). The chief guests of the opening ceremony included Dr Nandakumar Jairam, President of RBANMS Educational Charities and Terence Phelan, Sporting Director, South United Sports Foundation, alongside Dr Shankar, Vice Principal of RBANMS First Grade College accompanied by Sathish, AO for Schools and Amudha Principal of RBANMS PU College. Dr Prathap, Principal of RBANMS First Grade College delivered the welcome address which was followed by the lighting of the Lamp. Dr Veerabhadrappa felicitated the chief guests. Nearly 40 teams from many colleges across the city participated in the tournament. Jairam stressed the spirit of sportsmanship, while Phelan's journey of playing at the USA World Cup and the English Premier League inspired the players.

Soundarya College of Law Conducts Interactive Session on Access to Justice

Soundarya College of Law, Bengaluru conducted an interactive session on the topic, Access to Justice on 7 December 2022. Justice N. Santosh Hegde, Former Judge at the Supreme Court of India graced the occasion as the chief guest for the day. The program began with an invocation song and it was followed by the welcome address by Dr B.P. Mahesha, Principal, Soundarya College of Law. Addressing the crowd, Hegde stressed the necessity to inculcate humanism and ambition among the youth to overcome social evils such as corruption. He briefed about the various laws that protected the rights of every citizen and encouraged the students to exercise these whenever possible. Hegde tended to the questions from the students during the session. The session was also graced by Sri. Soundarya P Manjappa, the Chairman of SET, Sri. Keerthan Kumar, CEO of Soundarya Group of Institutions and Dr Suresh C. Hegadi, Principal of Soundarya Institute of Management Science.

Subramanian Swamy delivers a talk at Reva University's RBS Distinguished Lecture Series

Speaking as a part of Reva University's RBS Distinguished Lecture Series programme, Indian politician and economist Dr Subramanian Swamy delivered an enlightening session on the topic 'Need for Leaders and Innovators for Better Future Opportunities' on 16 December 2022 at the university campus.Swamy spoke on the importance of leaders and the role of innovation in shaping society. He lauded the efforts of the university for organising such events that inspire the students in recognising their social responsibility. He also participated in a Q&A session with the audience, which included a mix of academicians, professors, and students. Questions revolved around topics such as economic liberalisation, women's empowerment, and Make In India, among many others.Dr P. Shyama Raju, the Chancellor, expressed his gratitude to the economist for enlightening the minds of the audience. Dr M Dhanamjaya, Vice Chancellor; Dr R C Biradar Pro Vice-Chancellor; Dr A Shubha, Dean of RBS, alongside various faculty members and students also attended the session.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, DEC. 27	
RISE 06:39	SET 18:02
RISE 10:22	SET 22:18
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:02
RISE 11:08	SET 23:14
THURSDAY, DEC. 29	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:03
RISE 11:50	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	23
Mysuru	29	16
Bengaluru	25	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be pleasant but humid. Night will be cool. Chances of light rain and thundershower at some places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be pleasant but humid weather to prevail. Night will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Drug peddlers arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kamakshipalya police arrested a Nigerian national for allegedly peddling drugs at Sumanahalli junction and recovered 13.61 grams of MDMA crystals from him.

The arrested has been identified as James Owale, 26, a resident of Vidyaranyapura. The police recovered 3.46 grams of MDMA on him and recovered another 10.15 grams from his residence.

James has an attempt to murder case pending against him in the Yelahanka police station, which is under trial. He has been staying illegally in the city, said the police.

In a special drive over the weekend, the South-East Division police arrested five drug peddlers in Koramangala, Adugodi, and HSR Layout and recovered 20.78 kilos of ganja.

From Page One

New Year's Eve parties should be over by 1 a.m., says State govt.

The guidelines further said that the samples of those who test positive for COVID-19 upon arrival with a CT value lower than 25 will be sent for genome sequencing.

Passengers whose genome sequencing results show a BF7 or a new sub-variant/variant should follow strict COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) until the second RT-PCR test results are revealed.

Home isolation
Apart from this, those who test positive and exhibit mild symptoms can undergo strict home isolation, while those with moderate to severe symptoms will be shifted to designated government or private medical facility.

Vaccination
District Health authorities, including those in BBMP area, have been instructed to continue testing and also boost vaccination rates from 21% to 50% during December 2022-January 2023 by the Health Department.

COVID-19 committees in the district level will continue to monitor COVID-19 infrastructure, management and other aspects, the guidelines stated.

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INBRIEF

KPSC: Concern over delay in announcement of list

The delay in announcement of selection list of candidates by the KPSC for the posts of Junior Engineers of Public Works Department caused concern in the Legislative Assembly on Monday as BJP member S. Suresh Kumar drew the attention of the House on the episode.

Mr. Suresh Kumar remarked that the KPSC, which is supposed to give hope to the youth, was only disappointing them. He recalled that the government had cancelled the notification in this regard issued in March 2019 after holding exams in June 2019.

But even after holding exams in December 2021, the KPSC was yet to announce the list, he said. He alleged that KPSC members were taking time to sign the provisional list that had been sent to them. Public Works Minister C.C. Patil said he would take appropriate measures after discussing the issue with the Law Minister.

Increase allocation for houses of poor: Kundapur MLA

Haladi Srinivasa Shetty, Kundapur MLA, demanded increase in money granted for construction of houses under the Matsyashraya scheme, meant for fishermen community.

During the Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly on Monday, Mr. Shetty said under the schemes, the beneficiaries were granted only ₹1.2 lakh per house. The amount was insufficient even to complete the foundation, forget the house. "Sofa sets at Minister's residences cost more than ₹3 lakh. But, you expect a poor man to construct houses by spending ₹1.2 lakh," he said. He wanted the amount increased to at least ₹3 lakh per house.

Minister for Fisheries and Port Angara S. Said he would discuss the issue with the Chief Minister and take a decision. Housing Minister V. Somanna did agree that the amount sanctioned under the schemes was insufficient. "In rural areas, the amount could be ₹3 lakh and in case of urban areas, it could be ₹5 lakh," he said.

State's revenue and GST collections have shown robust growth: Review

Revenue collections increased by 10% and GST collections by 30% in the first half of 2022-23, when compared with the corresponding period of previous year, says report

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Amidst a global slowdown, Karnataka has demonstrated strong economic recovery from the pandemic-induced slowdown by registering a 9.5% growth in real economy for 2021-22, according to the mid-year review of State Finances 2022-23.

The report, which was tabled in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Monday, says that these figures have been derived from the provisional estimates of National Statistical Office. The State's revenue collections have increased by 10% and GST collections have shown a robust growth of 30% in the first half of 2022-23, when compared with the corresponding period of previous year.

FDI of ₹21,480 crore

The State, which has the reputation of being one of the top attractors of Foreign Direct Investments (FID), has received ₹21,480 crore of FDI in the first quarter of the present financial year, according to the report.

Also, the State has managed to reduce inflation from 6.39% in April to 5.81% in September 2022, which is well below the 7.4% inflation of the country in this period.

Word of caution

However, the global economic slowdown is likely to have an adverse impact on the State GSDP which is dominated by export-oriented service sector, it observes.

The fiscal deficit for 2022-23 has been revised at 2.82% of GSDP and revenue deficit at 0.67% of GSDP for the State with a total budget size of ₹2,65,720 crore. The report says that the fiscal deficit of 2.82% of GSDP is well within the permissible limit of 3%.

The total revenue receipts of the State during the first six months of the financial year 2022-23 from April to September 2022 is ₹ 1,00,330 crore.

This includes the State's Own Tax Revenue of ₹75,368 crore including GST compensation of ₹8,633 crore. The devolution from Government of India and grants-in-aid from the Centre stood at ₹13,717 crore and ₹5,521 crore, respectively.

The State's own tax revenue and non-tax revenues for the first half of 2022-23 increased compared to the first half of 2021-22, the report says. This shows that the economy is on the recovery path. For the first half of 2022-23, The State's own revenue receipts reached 57% of the budgeted estimates as against 54% in the corresponding period in 2021-22.

According to the trend analysis, the first half of 2022-23 saw a good increase in revenue collection in Karnataka. State's own tax revenue increased by 14% in the first half of 2022-23 compared to the previous year.

Similarly, the State's non-tax revenue for the same period showed a growth of over 17%. Overall, the revenue receipts have increased by 10 per cent compared to the previous year.

At the same time, the report points out that the Total Outstanding Liabilities (TOL) of the state in absolute numbers is expected to increase from ₹4,57,899 crore in 2021-22 to ₹5,18,366 crore in 2022-23. Also, it observed that the outstanding debt of the State government was increasing at rapid pace resulting in higher interest payments.

Review committee's recommendations

- Initiate measures for revision and collection of user fees or charges for public services
- To reduce salary/pension expenditure, identify unnecessary cadre/staff who have been rendered redundant owing to use of technology
- Implement recommendations of Second Administrative Reforms Commission on restructuring of departments and rationalisation of staff strength
- Reduce number of autonomous bodies such as boards, corporations, societies, statutory bodies and authorities etc. through mergers, closures
- Rationalise number of schemes and subsidies; target poorest of the poor
- Fast track the process of asset monetisation
- Implementation of Gurucharan Committee recommendations on Escoms

₹4,105 cr. unspent balance in 78 PD accounts; CAG warns of fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pointing out at violations in maintaining the Personal Deposit (PD) account in Karnataka, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has said that over ₹4,000 crore in PD accounts had not been closed at the end of March 31, 2022.

As per Article 286A of the Karnataka Financial Code, the unspent balance under PD Account created by debit to the Consolidated Fund should be closed at the end of financial year. However, at the end of March 31, 2022, there were 78 PD accounts with an unspent balance of ₹4,105 crore, which were not closed as required by the Article 286A, the CAG report on Finance accounts 2021-2022 tabled on Monday before the Karnataka Legislature in the ongoing winter session stated.

"Such practices violate the legislative intent, which is to ensure that funds approved by the State government for the financial year concerned are spent during the year itself," the report noted.

The CAG also warned that not transferring the unspent balance lying in the PD accounts to the Consolidated Fund of the State before the closure of the financial year entails the risk of misuse of public funds, fraud and misappropriation.

Supplementary Estimates tabled

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Supplementary Estimates 2022-23 (Second Instalment) were tabled in the legislature on Monday.

The Supplementary Estimates aggregate to ₹8,001.13 crore. They include ₹1,806.18 crore of charged expenditure and voted expenditure of ₹6,194.95 crore. The net outgo from the Consolidate Fund is ₹8,001.13 crore. A sum of ₹1,134.72 crore is covered by Central assistance, ₹1,799.01 crore is met through adjustments. Hence, the net cash outgo is ₹5,067.40 crore.

Assembly passes Bill to enhance SC, ST reservation after heated debate

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs J.C. Madhuswamy and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Legislative Assembly, on Monday, passed the Bill that increases the reservation of seats in educational institutions and jobs for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes unanimously, after a heated discussion.

Legislators of both the Congress and the JD(S) announced their wholehearted support for the Bill and wanted the State government to put pressure on the Centre to bring an amendment to include the Bill in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution to ensure the increased reservation was implemented.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs J.C. Madhuswamy presented the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Bill, 2022. He said that the BJP had given an assurance to the SCs and STs to increase the reservation during the elections. "Once the Bill is passed, we will make efforts at the Union government to ensure it is implemented effectively without any objections from court," he said.

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and JD (S) leader Bandeppa Kashempur expressed their support to the Bill. However, they demanded that the increased reservation should be implemented in the private sector too. Responding to the demand, Mr. Madhuswamy said he would discuss the issue with the Chief Minister and if necessary suitable changes would be made while making rules. Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri announced that the Bill had been passed unanimously.

Earlier in the day, the House witnessed heated debate on this issue. Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das commission on increasing the reservation was appointed during the JD(S)-Congress coalition government in June 2019. The committee submitted its report recommending the increase in reservation for Scheduled Castes by 2% and Scheduled Tribes by 4% in July 2020. "The government was not bothered to take up the issue for two years. Only after the MLAs raised the issue on the floor of the House and Valmiki Peetha seer staged dharna for 257 days, the government took the decision to increase the reservation," he said.

Besides, he alleged that the BJP had never supported reservation and always stood against social justice. "With the increase in the reservation, the total reservation has gone up to 56% against the Supreme Court's ceiling limit of 50%. If the constitution is not amended to suit the increase in the reservation, the court could strike it off. Moreover, the Union government, during the parliament session, made it clear that there is no proposal to enhance the reservation for SC and ST. This shows that the government is trying to score political mileage ahead of elections by enhancing the reservation," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

These comments led to heated argument between members in the Treasury Benches and Opposition. C.T. Ravi, BJP MLA, said the Congress leaders were engaged in making false allegations against the BJP, leading to further arguments.

Obscenity on social media discussed in Council

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Legislative Council on Monday discussed the issue of growing obscenity and nudity on social media even as the State government claimed that it had taken several steps that included registration of as many as 562 cases under various laws during the last five years.

Raising the issue during Question Hour, Congress member P.R. Ramesh voiced concern over the dissemination of obscene, semi-nude and nude visual media content on social media without any restrictions and sought to know the action taken by the government.

In response, Minister for Home Araga Jnanendra agreed that the dissemination of obscenity and nudity on social media was bearing an adverse impact and pointed out that the government had booked cases against the accused under Indian Penal Code, Information Technology Act and Intermediary Rules 2011 and 2022 during the last five years.

While 21 cases were booked during 2018, 51 cases were booked during 2019. Subsequently, 130 cases were booked during 2020 while 175 and 185 were booked during 2021 and 2022, respectively, he said.

Apart from tracing the persons posting such obscene and nude visuals and booking cases against them, the government had also taken necessary steps to contact the managers of social media websites to seek removal of the objectionable content.

Grievance cell

Mr. Jnanendra also said there is a grievance cell in each district and town for lodging complaints against obscene, nude, semi-nude, and anti-social posts.

State mulling over new law to handle e-waste

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Minister for Tourism, Environment and Ecology Anand Singh assured the Legislative Council that the State government will consider bringing in a new law to handle the growing quantum of e-waste in Karnataka.

Responding to questions from K.A. Thippeswamy and D.S. Arun, Mr. Singh said the processing and recycling units registered with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) had shown an increase in the quantum of e-waste collected from 44,240 tonnes during 2019-20 to 96,175 tonnes during 2020-21.

However, he said the government does not have any data on the e-waste collected by the unorganised sector.

The main reason for the government not having the full data on the e-waste generated in Karnataka is because the unorganised units are not covered by E-Waste Management Rules 2016.

Mr. Arun pointed out that Bengaluru is the third-highest e-waste generating city in India, and urged the government to take necessary steps and consider a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for handling the large volume of e-waste.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 13291 Dated: 23.12.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender invited through e-procurement portal from agencies for the work of **Supply, dismantling, erection, testing and commissioning of chiller water line with thermal insulation from chiller room to AHU room of Unit- 5 & 6 AC system** from reputed firms/organisations/contractors. Date of receipt of tenders: **06.01.2023 upto 16.30 Hrs.** All relevant details are available in e-portal website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the Office of the **Executive Engineer (LT-2),** KPCL, RTPS, Shakthinagar-584170, Raichur Dist., Karnataka. Mob: 94495 96536. E-mail: eelt2rtps@ gmail.com

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Division,
R.R. Nagar Zone, Bengaluru - 560 098.
No: BBMP/EE/Proj/TEN/03(2)/2022-23 Date: 26.12.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) - Call-2

Tenders are invited by The Executive Engineer, (Project Division), RR Nagar Zone, BBMP, for the services mentioned below under the KTPP Act 2000 through electronic two cover system from registered agencies with I.T, E.S.I, P.F, Labour Department and other Statutory Authority of GOK Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of Work service (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Supply of House Keeping services, BBMP Offices to Rajarajeshwari Nagara Constituency for 11 Months for the year 2022-23.	29.94	60,000/-

Eligible Contractor: As per RFP Document

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of the GOK **from 02.01.2023, 4:00 p.m. onwards.** (2) Last date and time for pre-bid meeting and tender queries at the office of the Chief Engineer, R.R. Nagara: **04.01.2023 upto 4:00 p.m.** (3) Last date & time for submission of tender document **: 09.01.2023 upto 4:30 p.m.** (4) Opening of Technical bid: **10.01.2023 at 4:30 p.m.** (5) Opening of Financial bid: **11.01.2023 at 11:00 a.m.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Division, R.R. Nagar Zone.

No. 1-7 /PW/DBM/ D1/2022-23/
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, MAHE

No.1-7/PW/DBM/D1/2022-23/ Dt: 26.12.2022

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

On behalf of the President of India,e- tenders are invited through the **Executive Engineer, Mahe Division, Public Works Department, Mahe,** for 2 (Two) works. For further details please refer to the web site **https://pudutenders.gov.in.**

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD,MAHE
No.467/DIP/AD(Press)/2022-23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

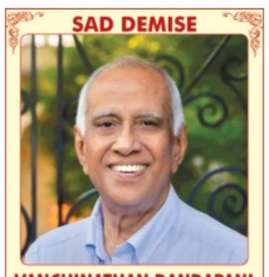
March 29, 1944 - December 25, 2022
N. Parthasarathy
BSc, BL, IRAS, Member (Retd.) Telecom Commission,
Son of Late R. Nambi Iyengar
attained Acharyan Thiruvadi at **2 p.m. on Dec. 25th, 2022** in Bangalore leaving behind Wife and Daughter.
Phone: 8618436135

OBITUARY

Mrs. Lalitha Bharathi
DOB: 20-1-1928 * DOD: 26-12-2022
Grieved by sons
Arjun Bharathi and Rajkumar Bharathi and family members
Ph: 9381735419, 9283242840

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



VANCHINATHAN DANDAPANI
(Retired Head of travel for Thomas Cook, Ex-CEO of Carlson Wagon lit (Asia) & Retired CEO of Air Travel Enterprises.)
D.O.B 18.11.1945 - D.O.D 26.12.2022
Deeply Mourned By
Saranya Dandapani - Wife
Mathangi & Samanta -Daughters
Ramakrishna & Vivek -Sons in law
Arya, Arudra, Rishab & Neel- Grandsons
Relatives and Friends
Ct: 9884030701

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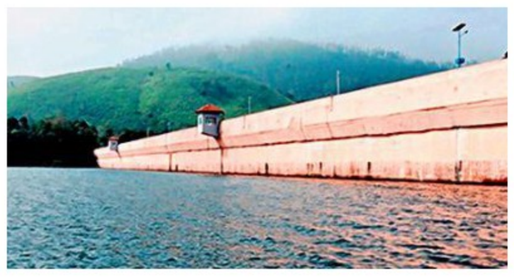
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

INBRIEF



Water level in Mullaperiyar dam touches 141.85 ft

Water level in the Mullaperiyar dam continued to rise and was nearing the maximum level of 142 ft. The water level at 4 p.m. on Monday was 141.85 ft. The tunnel discharge was 625 cusecs and the average inflow was 250 cusecs. Tamil Nadu issued the second flood warning as the water level crossed 141 ft at 6 a.m. on December 14.

Congress leaders seek stern action against moral policing

The Opposition Congress leaders, including Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, took exception to the episodes of "moral policing" in Mangaluru and demanded that the police deal with those behind it with an iron hand.

Mr. Siddaramaiah blamed Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for the increase in such incidents in the coastal city. He further alleged that such incidents were repeatedly taking place particularly when the Chief Minister visited Mangaluru city. Responding to this, Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said the government would not back any such incidents and that it would initiate all measures to put an end to such episodes.

Cabinet nod for tabling Bills on setting up private varsities

The State Cabinet has given green signal for tabling six Bills related to setting up of as many private universities in the ongoing legislature session. A decision to this effect is learnt to have been taken by the Cabinet at its meeting in Belagavi on Monday. The proposed private universities are T. John university, Bengaluru; Rajya Vokkaligara Sangha University, Bengaluru; Sapthagiri University, Bengaluru; GM University, Davangere; Acharya University, Bengaluru; and Kishkinda University, Ballari.

Researchers want beedi rolling declared hazardous

Based on the study, the World Health Organisation calls for screening women workers for cervical cancer and respiratory diseases under National Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat schemes

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A group of researches has urged the government to declare beedi rolling a hazardous process and recommended alternative sources of livelihood for them.

The call follows review of 95 studies conducted on occupational health hazards of beedi workers in the country. Researchers from the George Institute for Global Health analysed studies from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Maharashtra.

In India 71.8 million adults smoke beedi. The studies suggest around 87% of workers reported symptoms such as pain in the back, shoulder, neck, knee, joints, spondylitis, tiredness and body ache. Workers had musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, skin, cardiovascular, oral and eye diseases. Women workers had more miscarriages and abortions; lower fertility rate; and higher uterine problems.

The call follows review of 95 studies conducted on occupational health hazards of beedi workers in the country. FILE PHOTO

Newborns of mothers involved in the work were at 1.9 times higher risk for low birth weight and 1.7 times at higher risk for smaller for gestational age. Often young children accompanied their mothers at work, the studies had revealed. And as much as 87% of children had headache and body pain besides respiratory issues such as cough, TB, asthma, and giddiness.

Jyoti Tyagi, research fellow at the Institute said one of the recommendations of their analysis was to train the beedi rollers in alternative livelihood methods with better payment as they currently received less than $2 for rolling 1,000 beedis.

Based on the Institute's study, WHO has called for screening women workers for cervical cancer and respiratory diseases under National Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat schemes. It has recommended classifying beedi rolling as a hazardous process under national and State level legislations.

Karnataka govt. to convene all-party meeting

RESERVATION ISSUE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP government in Karnataka has decided to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the demand for reservation from various communities before announcing its decision.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told reporters in Delhi after meeting party leaders, including national party chief J.P. Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, that they had discussed the issue in detail with the leaders, and that the government would announce its decision after the all-party meeting.

"There are several demands from communities for reservation. These demands have to be considered based on social justice and no community should be served injustice due to additional reservation being sought by others," he said, adding that there were several angles that needed to be considered before making a decision.

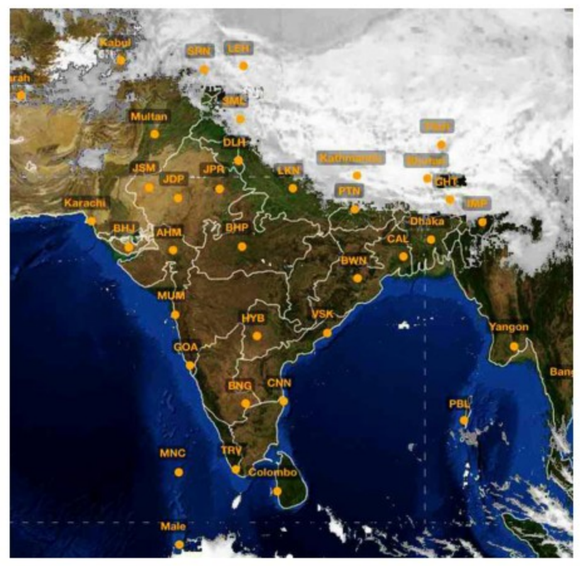
"Our leaders have told us to follow the social justice policy of the party. They have told us to serve justice to whichever community deserves. They have also asked us to discuss the matter with experts and the central leaders will also discuss with people concerned here. We will place and discuss all these angles at the all-party meeting."

Meanwhile, Mr. Bommai also said that he had discussed Cabinet expansion, and the leaders had asked for regional and social representation. An announcement would be made shortly, he added.

At the meet, party leaders also discussed preparation for the elections and visits of central leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to Karnataka starting from January.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.1	15.4	Kozhikode	1	33.9	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	26.9	13.2	Kurnool	—	30.1	22.7
Aizawl	—	—	9.8	Lucknow	—	21.6	9.6
Allahabad	—	24.4	10.2	Madurai	9	31.0	23.6
Bengaluru	3.9	25.4	19.8	Mangaluru	—	35.8	23.5
Bhopal	—	24.0	11.5	Mumbai	—	29.5	16.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.2	17.6	Mysuru	—	29.8	12.6
Chandigarh	—	16.8	8.7	New Delhi	—	15.6	5.0
Chennai	9	30.1	25.0	Patna	—	25.0	13.4
Coimbatore	11	28.0	22.5	Port Blair	—	31.4	25.7
Dehradun	—	23.2	7.8	Puducherry	2.2	30.8	24.0
Gangtok	—	14.1	6.4	Pune	—	33.0	12.1
Goa	—	33.4	20.2	Raipur	—	31.7	16.2
Guwahati	—	23.0	14.3	Ranchi	—	26.8	13.8
Hubballi	—	30.0	20.0	Shillong	—	15.9	9.1
Hyderabad	—	28.6	21.0	Shimla	—	14.9	3.5
Imphal	—	16.9	7.7	Srinagar	—	10.2	-3.5
Jaipur	—	22.8	7.0	Thiruvananthapuram	7	31.2	24.2
Kochi	0.6	32.2	25.2	Tiruchi	21	30.5	23.6
Kohima	2	18.0	5.4	Vijayawada	—	30.4	21.6
Kolkata	—	30.0	20.2	Visakhapatnam	—	31.0	23.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.21	131	.41	—	65	
Bengaluru	.15	20	.37	43	51	
Chennai	.23	29	.39	30	33	
Delhi	.14	89	106	376	288	
Hyderabad	2	44	.38	118	133	
Kolkata	.23	—	.21	87	100	
Lucknow	.12	45	103	294	193	
Mumbai	.34	.37	.39	324	194	
Pune	—	—	.83	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	—	.39	.26	72	106	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
(DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL)
CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT

No.DUDC/Indira Canteen/CR/405/2017-18 Date : 16-12-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar invites e-procurement tender from eligible contractors/suppliers under KC document for Providing Annual Catering Services for Indira Canteens in Urban Local Bodies of Chamarajanagara District (CMC Chamarajanagara, CMC Kollegal, TMC Gundlupet and TP Yelandur) in Karnataka State. (Indent No: DUDC/INDIRA CANTEEN/CHN/CR/405//2017-18) Estimate Cost: 307.80 Lakhs, EMD Amount: **Rs.4,62,000.00, Last date for uploading of completed tender documents : 16.01.2023 at 5.00 P.M, Pre-bid Meeting Venue & date : 30.12.2022 at 11.00 A.M,** (Room No.127, DUDC, DC Office, Chamarajanagar) Date of opening of technical bids: 17.01.2022 at 5.00 P.M & Date of opening of Financial bids : informed to Successfully technical qualified Bidders, interested contractors/suppliers shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors/suppliers can download the tender documents from e-procurement platform **(www.erpoc.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.erpoc.karnataka.gov.in.** EMD and tender processing fees shall also be paid electronically.

DIPR : CHANAGAR:481:2022-23 **Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕನೀನಿ ಎಂ.ಬಿ.ಸಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 1, ಗದ್ದನಕೇರಿ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್ : ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.
ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08354-297046, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eeknnlbgk@gmail.com
ಸಂ.ಕನೀನಿ/ವಿ-1/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟಿಎಂಡಿ/2022-23/1529&1562 ದಿ : 26-12-2022
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (4701 ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಪಿ-ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ)
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿ, ಎಂ.ಬಿ.ಸಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 1, ಗದ್ದನಕೇರಿ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್ : ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999-2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ act 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1,3&4 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಪ್ರತಿಶತ ದರಗಳ (Percentage Rate) ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ (ಎರಡು ಹಾಗೂ ಒಂದು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ) ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Work Indent No. 35191 (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-4), 35190 (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-3), 35201 (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-3), 34856 (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1)
ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಇಡಲಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಯೊಂದಿಗೆ) : ರೂ. 9.99 ಲಕ್ಷ ದಿಂದ ರೂ. 129.34 ಲಕ್ಷ.
ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ 25,000/- ರಿಂದ ರೂ 2,00,000/-
1) ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕನೀನಿ, ನೀ(ಉ) ವಲಯ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-4 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ) ದಿ: **27.12.2022, 11.00** ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **29.12.2022, 17.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. (3) ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿ: **02.01.2023 ರಂದು 16.00** ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. (4)ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-4 & ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-3 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ/ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: **04.01.2023, 11.00** ಘಂಟೆ (5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-4 & ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-3 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರ. ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ವೈಬಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರು,
ಕನೀನಿ, ಎಂ.ಬಿ.ಸಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 1, ಗದ್ದನಕೇರಿ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪ್ : ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/723/2022-23/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟ

HUBBALLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Chief Engineer (Electy) Belagavi Zone, Office Nehru Nagar
Belagavi-590010 E-mail ID: ceebgm.hescom@gmail.com
Tel:0831 2478166, Tel: 0831 2478199
Corporate Identity Number(CIN): U31401KA2002SGC030437
No. BLG/CEE/BZ/Civil/F-15/22-23/ CYS-266 Date :23-12-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-2
(e-Procurement Portal only)

The Chief Engineer(Electy) Belagavi Zone, HESCOM Belagavi invites tenders for the work of "Extension of existing **33/11** KV Sub Station at Tidagundi, Vijayapur" coming under Belagavi Zone.

The tender will be received through "e-Procurement Portal" only. The detail notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Procurement Portal can be obtained by logging on to www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after **27-12-2022 16:00**Hrs onwards. Further details can be obtained from this office contact No. **0831-2478166** during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy) Belagavi Zone, HESCOM, Belagavi

DIPR/DWD/896/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O&M Zone, 'Vidyuth Bhavan', M.R.S., Shivamogga - 577 203.
Phone: 08182-220445, 220446 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

Ref No.: CEE/SZ/SMG/EE(C)AE(C)/F-Tenders/2022-23/CYS-45 Date: 20.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Mode Only)

MESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement mode only from the Registered KPWD contractors having EPF, ESI, GST and Labour department Registration for civil works bearing Indent No. **1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1865, 1866, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1891, 1899 & 1900**

For detailed information and to participate in the tender through e-procurement mode please access the tendering website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **27.12.2022.** Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.) O & M Zone, Shimoga

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE BELLARY
Bellary-Bengalore Road Bandimote- Bellary-583101
E-Mail:-apmcballry@gmail.com Ph:08392-250442
No: APMC/ BLY/DEV/ 991 /2022-23 Date : 23.12.2022

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
II nd Short Term Tender Notification
(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal only)

Expression of Interest is invited from the Secretary, APMC Bellary reputed potential private developers like Firms, Farmers, Individuals, Developers and Builders, who are willing to **Establishing Modern Market for Chillies at Market Sub Yard Aladahalli Village of APMC Bellary on Public-Private Partnership basis's** in Karnataka State as per the guidelines of the Public-Private Partnership scheme.

The tenderers may submit their EOI in e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

For any further information please contact The secretary APMC Bellary on Ph no 08392-250442 or through e-mail. Or visit GOK e-Procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact e-Procurement Helpdesk at 080 – 22441076

Indent No.860/APMC/DEV/BLY/2022-23

Pre bid meeting on **12.01.2023 at 11.00 AM.** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours on **21.01.2023. Technical Bids will be opened on 24-01-2023 @ 4.00 PM**

Sd/- Secretary, APMC Bellary **Sd/- Chairman, APMC Bellary.**
DIPR/Ballari/736/MCA/2022-23

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.
No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/43/2022-23 Dated: 21-12-2022

E-PROCUREMENT
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For MLA Grants Works. The work details can be obtained from the e-Procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 09-01-2023 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

DIPR/CP/3720/ Adverto/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Commissioner (South), Mahanagara Palike Commercial Complex Building, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru.
No: JC(S)R.D/Nulm/PR/232/2022-23 Date: 23-12-2022

CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION OF SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER

Short term tenders were invited in two cover system (Standard Tender Document KW-1) from eligible registered and interested Non-Government Organizations in accordance with Rules 1999 and 2000 of Transparency Act for maintenance of Shelter for Shelterless People of five (5) Shelters under Day-Nulm Scheme for the year 2022-23 in the limits of South Zone of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike vide News Papers dated: 17-12-2022 and Due to Technical Reasons it is requested to read the said notification as follows. Last date of submission of tender is amended. Other things remain unaltered.

1) Last Date for Submission of Tenders: **05-01-2023 upto 3.30 PM. 2)** Date of Opening of Bid of Technical Proposal: **06-01-2023 at 4.00 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner (South), BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my client M/s. DSR Infrastructure Pvt Ltd represented by its CEO / Authorised Signatory **Sri.K.S. Satyanarayana Reddy** has lost the Original Sale Deed, dated 04.05.2006 executed by **Smt. Chinnamma and others** in favour of **M/s. DSR Constructions** represented by its partner Sri. D.Prabhakar Reddy, registered as Document No.3991/2006-07, registered in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru in respect of the Property bearing Sy.No.124, measuring 1 Acre 39 Guntas, situated at Seegehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District at the time of relocating their office to the new building.

If anybody has found the same, please contact / return it to the below-mentioned address.

Sd/-
S. NAGA THRIJALA, M.B.A., L.L.B, ADVOCATE,
#98, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross,
1st A Main Road, Gururaja Layout,
Vibhutipura Extention, Doddankundi,
Bengaluru – 560037, +91-9440971415.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES BENGALURU
Estate Office, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.
No. EO/SPO/e-Proc/131/2022-23 Date: 21-12-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per the Standard tender document KG-1 & KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of the following Equipment's/Cotton Cloth Bags/Chemicals for Seeds. Sl No. 1 to 13. The details of the KG-1 & KG-2, Tender Notification, Schedule, Specifications are available in the website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of the Tender document is as per e-procurement portal NORMS. The EMD shall be paid using e-procurement payment modes.

Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for uploading the tender on **10-01-2023 up to 4.00 p.m.** The Financial bid will be opened on **12-01-2023 at 10.30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS **Website: www.uasbangalore.edu.in.** Helpdesk: **91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 hphelpdesk.blr@intervo.com.** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

DIPR/CP/RO3717/AAPL/2022-23

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer
MI & GWD Division, Mandya
No:EE:MID:MDY:TB:2022-23:1438 Date:23.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:09/ 2022-23,Dt:23.12.2022.

ItemWise Tenders are invited from registered and eligible contractors under " e - Procurement " Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender bid documents KW-4. Under the Head of Account 4702: Lift Irrigation Scheme, there is 02 No of work, 4702- Anecut and Pickups, there is 01 No of work and 4711- Flood damage there are 01 No of work. Amount put to tender ranging from as low as **Rs. 180.00 Lakhs to as high as Rs. 980.00 Lakhs.** Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office up to dated : **11.01.2023 during office hours. The tenders may be uploaded (Technical and Financial bids to be uploaded separately)** with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in upto dated : **13.01.2023 up to 17-30 Hours.** Technical bids of the bidders will be opened on dated :**16.01.2023 at 11-00 AM.** Financial bids of the bidders will be opened on dated : **18.01.2023 at 11-00 AM.** All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all works or any of the work of this tender by the under signed. Terms and conditions required for the each work is published in the "e - Procurement " Tender Portal. Any additional information is available at the office of the undersigned. Any corrections regarding the works will be published in " e - Procurement " portal only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mandya.
DIPR/AD-MDY/MC&A/554/2022-23

Power roller-coaster

The Maoists, UML are back to sharing power despite not winning the mandate

There seems to be no limit to the opportunism in Nepal's top polity. Newly minted Prime Minister Pushpa Kumar Dahal's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) was part of a six-party alliance led by the Nepali Congress that collectively finished just above the absolute majority mark in the parliamentary elections held in November. The CPN(M-C) won just 11.13% of the votes, getting 32 seats in the 275-member House of Representatives. The party's poor performance was hardly any disincentive for Mr. Dahal to claim the post of prime minister from his party's senior partner, the NC. After being denied this, legitimately, in his blatant hunger for power, he immediately took the expedient route of aligning with the leading Opposition party, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) led by Khadga Prasad Oli, securing the Prime Minister's post, for a period of half of the term of the new government. The new coalition led by the UML and the Maoists includes the newcomer Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and five smaller parties. The RSP promised a break in the political wheeling-dealing that has characterised Nepali politics but the fact that it jumped at the first chance to join an opportunist alliance – its leader Rabi Lamichhane is now Deputy Prime Minister and a Home Minister in the government – would have belied the hopes of its adherents.

The renewal of the alliance between the two "leftist" parties – barely years after the falling out between the UML faction led by Mr. Oli and the Maoists led to a change of government with the NC aligning with the Maoists and a smaller UML faction led by Madhav Kumar Nepal besides other parties – suggests that the loaves of power, rather than ideology or principle, are what are more tempting for Mr. Oli and Mr. Dahal. The "Left" alliance had after all broken up due to legitimate grievances with Mr. Oli's authoritarian attitude and his manoeuvres to hold on to power. For Mr. Dahal to repeat his habit of performing political volte-faces and to join hands with Mr. Oli despite a clear mandate for the pre-election coalition that he was a part of, suggests yet another period of opportunistic political wrangling that would hamper governance in Nepal. Mr. Oli has managed to make the best out of an unfavourable situation for his party by securing nominations to the post of President and Speaker from his party, reportedly as part of the arrangement with Mr. Dahal, besides gaining plum ministerial posts to help with the usual politics of patronage. But by subverting mandates for short-term gains, the Maoists and the UML are only perpetuating instability and lowering the trust of the people in the democratic system in a country that endured two upheavals to become a constitutional republic.

For a spot in the final

Despite the win against Bangladesh, India's list of worries in Tests is long

The 2-0 away series win against a spirited Bangladesh side has come at a critical time for India. Even as it helps the team stay on course for a spot in the ICC World Test Championship final next summer, the victory aids in clearing a few clouds that had set over the team after the defeat suffered at the hands of England in the Men's T20 World Cup last month and the ODI series loss to Bangladesh earlier this December. The third and final ODI in Chattogram – a dead rubber – had indeed brought the first whiff of fresh air, with Ishan Kishan smashing the fastest-ever double hundred and providing a glimpse of the exhilaratingly new approach India can adopt in the lead up to the 2023 Men's Cricket World Cup. The Test series triumph completes that cycle of positivity. There were many individual performances that will ease nerves and warm hearts. Rishabh Pant's return to his swashbuckling best, Cheteshwar Pujara's century-making touch, left-arm unorthodox spinner Kuldeep Yadav's successful reintegration – his non-selection for the Mirpur Test despite a player-of-the-match performance in the first Test in Chattogram notwithstanding – Shubman Gill's maiden hundred and R. Ashwin's all-round brilliance will boost India ahead of the home series against Australia in February-March.

But for all the happiness and delight, there are two discordant notes – India's travails against quality spin bowling and the form of Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul. It is now accepted that the current era of Indian players do not compare favourably with those from the previous generations when it comes to countering spin. With multiple series shoe-horned into the season, top cricketers, especially those who play all three formats, have no time for domestic cricket. It is no surprise that Shreyas Iyer, who grafted his way through the First Class route, is currently the best player on turning tracks, a fact reiterated in the Test series. This malaise has been exacerbated by the overall rough patch Kohli and Rahul are going through. Though Kohli seems to have turned over a new leaf in limited overs cricket, that confidence has not seeped into his Test batting. In 36 innings since his last century at Eden Gardens in November 2019 against Bangladesh, he has totalled just 917 runs at 26.20, with six fifties. Rahul last made a half-century at the start of the year, eight innings ago. There will be a month's respite from these worries as India shifts focus to the six T20Is and six ODIs at home against Sri Lanka and New Zealand. But the scrutiny will return when Australia comes calling.

A dismissed review petition, an egregious error

When Bilkis Bano, sole survivor of a horrific gang-rape and mass murder in 2002, asked the Supreme Court of India to review its May 2022 judgment which directed the Government of Gujarat to consider the early release of one of those convicted of these monstrous crimes, it was an opportunity for the Court to redress an egregious error. Sadly, it chose not to do so. In a bland, two-page order issued in the chambers on December 13, 2022, the Court dismissed her review petition.

In May this year the Court allowed a writ petition filed by Radheshyam Bhagwandas Shah, alias Lala Vakil, who had been convicted by a Sessions Court in Mumbai for mass murder coupled with rape, and sentenced to life imprisonment. The conviction and sentence of Radheshyam and his co-convicts were confirmed by a Division Bench of the Bombay High Court on May 5, 2017, and this judgment in turn was confirmed by the Supreme Court on July 10, 2017. By its judgment of May 13, 2022 the top court allowed Radheshyam's writ petition, set aside an Order of the Gujarat High Court which had rejected the same relief sought by the convicted prisoner in that court, and directed the Government of Gujarat to consider the prisoner's application for remission and premature release in accordance with a now-defunct policy dated July 9, 1992.

The Gujarat government acted with alacrity in granting remission and early release not only to Radheshyam but also to all his fellow life-convicts. It was only when they were released on Independence Day this year, and felicitated with garlands and the distribution of sweets, that the nation awoke to the Supreme Court order which had made this possible. Bilkis Bano thus applied for a review of the Supreme Court's judgment.

In addition, since she had neither been given notice nor been heard in Radheshyam's petition, she requested an open court hearing in accordance with Order 47, Rule 3 of the Supreme Court Rules. The order of December 13 rejected her application for a hearing and dismissed the Review Petition by circulation in chambers.

Chander Uday Singh

is Senior Advocate

The cryptic rejection of a compelling review petition does injustice not only to the victim of unspeakable horrors — Bilkis Bano — but also to the standing and prestige of the top court

The said order is perplexing as it completely fails to notice or engage with several of the review petitioner's contentions. Worse, the only submission of the review petitioner which was noted, namely that four binding judgments including one by a Constitution Bench had not been followed by the Court, was brushed aside with the statement that "none of the judgments are of any assistance to the review petitioner".

Aspects that were overlooked

Some aspects revealed in the Review Petition which were completely overlooked by the Court include: writ petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution are not maintainable against judicial orders, especially orders of a High Court, which is a constitutional court like the Supreme Court; Radheshyam had filed a writ petition before the Gujarat High Court which was rejected by a judgment of July 17, 2019, referred to by the top court as "the judgment impugned" – hence his only remedy was to file a petition seeking special leave to appeal under Article 136; after the High Court rejected his petition on July 17, Radheshyam moved an amendment application to contend that the appropriate government to consider remission or early release was the central government, and the High Court rejected this too by its order dated March 13, 2020, which records that his counsel accepted the correct legal position and sought permission to move the Bombay High Court, which liberty was granted to him; the convicted prisoner had suppressed all relevant facts and materials in his writ petition before the top court; the foundation of the Supreme Court's judgment dated May 13, 2022 was its finding that the State of Gujarat was the appropriate government and not the State of Maharashtra, which finding is rendered without considering the plain words of sub-sections (1) and (7) of Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; that these and other relevant provisions of law had been consistently interpreted by the Supreme Court for over four decades, hence a two-judge Bench of the top court could not have adopted a contrary interpretation without referring the issue to a larger Bench; and the Supreme Court had relied heavily on a Bombay High Court order of August 5, 2013, which did not even remotely hold what the Court ascribed to it in paragraphs 5 and 12 of the judgment under review.

Other instances

Strangely, the top court ignored a binding nine-judge Constitution Bench decision in *Naresh Shridhar Mirajkar* (1966) and another five-judge Constitution Bench in *Triveniben* (1989), which held that a judgment of a court can never be challenged in a writ petition under Article 32. The Court also brushed aside another Constitution Bench decision in *Union of India vs V. Sriharan* (judgment in 2015) in which the majority in paragraph 180, and the minority concurring on this aspect in paragraph 212, held that if an offence is committed in State A, but the trial takes place and sentence is passed in State B, it is the government of the latter alone which is the appropriate government.

Indeed, as early as in 1976, the Court had in *Madhya Pradesh vs Ratan Singh* decided to make "an authoritative decision on the important principle involved in the case", and held that "it is the State where the accused was convicted which alone has the power to grant remissions of the sentence". The Court further held that "there can be no shadow of doubt that the appropriate Government mentioned in sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure refers to the Government of the State where the accused was convicted". And, finally, the Court held in that judgment that Section 432(7) of the new Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 "has put the matter completely beyond any controversy".....and has made the position absolutely clear". This judgment having been reiterated in 1976, 1982, 2004, and twice in 2016 (one of which was by a Constitution Bench), it is inexplicable why it was held to be of no assistance to the review petitioner.

A cryptic rejection of a compelling review petition does injustice not only to the victim of unspeakable horrors but also to the standing and prestige of the Supreme Court. It can only be hoped that the Court will find some way to redress this injustice.

A warship programme that must go full steam ahead

Early this month, the Indian Navy chief, Admiral Hari Kumar, at the annual press conference on the eve of Navy Day (December 4) had said that the Indian Navy had put on hold its plans to build a second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-2) that is larger than IAC-1 (INS *Vikrant*). Instead, he said, it is considering the option of a repeat order of the IAC-1. The Navy chief added that this decision had been taken as INS *Vikrant* had performed well during its trials and would also help capitalise on the expertise now available in the country.

Classification of carriers

In terms of size, aircraft carriers can be classified as light, medium and large/super-carriers. Light carriers can carry up to 25 aircraft, the medium-sized ones around 30 to 50 aircraft, while the large/super-carriers can carry over 90 aircraft. In terms of role, they can be categorised as fleet, escort, air defence, amphibious assault and anti-submarine warfare (helicopter) carriers. In terms of the methodology used to launch and recover aircraft, they can be categorised as Catapult Assisted Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (CATOBAR), Short Take-off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR), and vertical/short take-off and landing (V/STOL) carriers.

India's first aircraft carrier, INS *Vikrant* (British-built), predecessor to INS *Vikrant* (IAC-1), was a 19,000-tonne CATOBAR-type light carrier designed for fleet air defence. It could carry between 21 to 23 aircraft (including helicopters). Its replacement, INS *Viraat* (British-built), at 28,000 tonnes, was a V/STOL-type light fleet air defence carrier, with an air wing of 26 to 30 aircraft and helicopters. Notably, its Sea Harrier aircraft also possessed dedicated land attack capability. INS *Vikramaditya* (Russian-built), at 45,000 tonnes, is a medium-sized STOBAR-type aircraft carrier, capable of both fleet air defence and land attack, carrying up to 30 aircraft and helicopters. INS *Vikrant* IAC-1) is almost similar in size, classification, role and capability to INS *Vikramaditya*.

A.K. Chawla

is a retired Vice-Admiral who last served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command

With an inimical China planning a large carrier force, India can ill-afford to fall behind in its sea control and maritime deterrence capability

The commissioning of INS *Vikrant* in September this year demonstrated India's capability to design and build the largest and most complex of warships, a capability held only by few countries. The planning for IAC-I, as it was called before commissioning, began in the mid-1980s. There were several iterations by the Indian Navy's Design Directorate before the plan was finalised and government approval obtained for construction in 2002. Built with indigenous steel developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, its keel was laid in 2009 and the ship launched in 2013. Sea trials began in August 2021 and the ship was commissioned on September 2, 2022.

The elaboration of this timeline is to show the time and the effort that went into the design, construction and trials of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier. This time period can, of course, be shortened considerably if the next carrier is a repeat order. The expertise gained from the design and the construction of IAC-I will also enable faster development if a new and larger ship design is approved by the Government.

Due to the smaller and relatively less capable air wing carried on its first four carriers, as compared to other carrier-capable navies, the Indian Navy envisaged a medium-sized CATOBAR aircraft carrier in the region of 50,000 tonnes-65,000 tonnes, as a follow-up to INS *Vikrant*.

This is the tonnage of aircraft carriers operated by advanced navies such as the United Kingdom, Russia, China and France – with only the U.S. Navy operating nuclear-powered super-carriers of tonnage greater than 1,00,000 tonnes. Various constraints, principally financial in nature, seem to have curbed India's ambitions. However, the fall-back plan for a repeat order would ensure that valuable infrastructure, design capability, ship-building expertise and the indigenous industrial ecosystem, built through extensive investment and effort over two decades, are not lost.

It would also ensure that India finally achieves the goal of having three aircraft carriers – a target that has remained elusive since the first Naval Plan Papers in 1948 stipulated the need for three aircraft carriers for the Indian Navy. Having two aircraft carriers of similar design and configuration would also make their operation/maintenance easier.

China's ambitions

However, in the long term, India should not lose sight of the fact that China's first two aircraft carriers displace over 65,000 tonnes, and its third indigenously designed and built carrier, *Fujian*, displaces 85,000 tonnes, with a possible air wing of 60-odd aircraft. China's future plans for a seven-ship carrier force include ambitions to build nuclear-powered super-carriers of over 1,00,000 tonnes displacement, with construction reportedly having commenced in 2017.

As a major emerging global power, with an inimical China at its doorstep, India can ill-afford to fall behind in its sea control and maritime deterrence capability, exemplified by an aircraft carrier-centric navy. While aircraft carriers are designed for 'arrested recovery' of aircraft, India should not allow the development of its aircraft carrier programme itself to be 'arrested'.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The fabric that is India

The description of the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra goes well with an otherwise well-thought-out and balanced commentary on today's polity (Editorial page, December 26).

The writer and politician's line that 'if we do not impact politics, politics will impact our lives mercilessly' is thought-provoking. But will people wake up and act?

M. Karunanithi,
Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu

It appears that the narrative came from the core of the writer's heart. I would think that the article would reflect the sentiments of many in the country. The Bharat Jodo Yatra need not be construed as a Congress campaign, but as people's 'enmass participation' under the leadership of a person much spurned and perhaps misunderstood as a maverick politician of low calibre.

K. Nehru Patnaik,
Visakhapatnam

Actor and politician Kamal Haasan's metaphor of the kind of divisive politics being practised and present in India today is a matter for serious debate.

The government of the day has to pay attention to the many sufferings of people.

C. Sachidananda Narayanan,
Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

One bar, one judiciary

It is time to examine whether a class of lawyers being designated as Senior Counsel is necessary considering the way in which it has worked — it has reached the high point of being described as a 'distinct gown' and not a 'distinguished gown'. Corporate clients and law firms often seek a lawyer with a senior gown. The virtual corporatisation of the legal system is being promoted through the designation of lawyers as Senior Counsel. There appears to be a race for a 'senior gown' and lawyers who do not get it in their respective courts seek such recognition in other courts. In one court, a number of lawyers were designated Senior Counsel leading to much amusement.

There was a grievance made in the Supreme Court that there were not enough women lawyers designated 'Senior Counsel' in the Madras High Court. This may be justified. But carrying it to its logical extent, there may be a grievance tomorrow that members of a particular community have not been designated. The best solution is to have only one gown, which will increase camaraderie among lawyers. The Chief Justice of India must act.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Individualism and health

What is the logic behind "curbing individualism in public health", as highlighted in the Editorial page article (December 13)? Clinical medicine is about an individualistic approach, whereas community medicine is a population-based approach to disease and ill-health. This polarity is decreasing gradually under the right-based approach to the public health system emerging globally; universal health care became the golden rule. Why go back to that old artificial divide? Whenever hospitalisation is required (3% NSSO Round 75), care must be provided and planned for under the public health system. In any insurance scheme, under the pooled risk concept, the premium paid by the large majority covers the expenses of the few unfortunate victims of ill health. Similarly, in mass COVID-19 immunisation, there is nothing unethical in motivating them for self-protection from hospitalisation and death. That is the current evidence. Immunisation and hospitalisation for the treatment of severe cases form the two-pronged strategy of public health intervention in COVID-19 pandemic control. Care and treatment of uncomplicated COVID-19 cases in domiciliary or fever hospitals with isolation and tertiary intensive care in big hospitals with ventilatory facilities are again examples of stratified public health approaches of individualism in clinical care. There is nothing objectionable.

Every individual has a right to be healed, free of complications and disability. That right is guaranteed only by individualism in public health — the new global approach to universal health care, where "nobody is left uncounted and uncared for".

Dr. Antony K.R.,
Thevara, Kochi, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

How to improve historical thinking

A common claim by activists is that the 'other side' of the political spectrum is distorting history. At the 400th birth anniversary celebration of Ahom Army General Lachit Borphukan, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "I often hear that our history has been distorted... Maybe it's true. But who has stopped us now from presenting a glorious history to the world?"

Vikram Vincent

did his PhD from IIT Bombay and focused on EdTech and Historical Thinking

Reforms in textbooks

Along the lines of what Mr. Shah said, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, headed by Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe, presented the 'Reforms in Content and Design of School Textbooks' to both Houses of Parliament on November 30, 2021. The circular by the Committee stated three objectives: removing references to unhistorical facts and distortions about our national heroes from textbooks; ensuring equal or proportionate references to all periods of Indian history; and highlighting the role of great historic women heroes. Post consultations, the Committee brought out 25 suggestions that related to improvement of engagement of children for learning, content of the textbooks, representation of women in history during the Indian freedom struggle along with changing the way women are traditionally represented in textbooks, use of EdTech in content delivery, promotion of scientific temper, innovation, communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. The report also focused on the need for textbooks to promote national integration, unity and constitutional values. While acknowledging the importance of the suggestions, it is equally important to observe the class and caste composition of the Committee and the fact that it did not have a single woman member.

On July 14, 2021, the Indian History Congress (IHC) released a scathing criticism of the circular. It said: "The critique of the existing textbooks implicit in the 'Reforms' being contemplated is not emerging from any expert body of nationally and internationally recognised historians but from a political position favoured by non-academic votaries of prejudice. The implicit critique is in fact the same as that argued in a Report brought out recently by the Public Policy Research Centre. This is reminiscent of the effort made in 2001-2002 to make deletions from existing NCERT textbooks and... replace them with books written by those with chauvinistic and communal bias. That effort too was preceded by a publication *The Enemies of Indianisation: The Children of Marx, Macaulay and Madrasa* edited by Dina Nath Batra, General Secretary of the RSS-run Vidya Bharati." The IHC release contested the three objectives of the circular by providing around 11 pages of tabular data detailing the distribution of content in existing history textbooks. The IHC continued, "School textbooks written for the NCERT by some of the tallest scholars in the country... were actually removed, and in their place books with a clear sectarian, majoritarian bias were introduced in 2002... The textbooks of the NCERT, with the brief exception of the books brought out in 2002, have always been authored by eminent scholars in the field of Indian history.... The books brought out in 2002 were severely critiqued in a publication of the IHC... Under widespread public criticism the books had to be withdrawn."

In December 2019, at the IHC conference at Kannur University, there was an alleged altercation between Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and historian Irfan Habib. The 81st session of the Indian History Congress will take place at Madras Christian College, Chennai (December 27-29, 2022). This will be closely watched.

Is it possible to accurately recreate the past? Are the data sufficient to make causal claims? Is it possible to uphold the values of the past in its entirety or is there a possibility to reinterpret the past based on the lens we wear? Is there a scientific process involved in the study of history or is it simply static content meant for memorisation? These and other questions were answered by Professor Gary Nash and his colleagues in *History on Trial: Culture Wars and the Teaching of the Past*, relating to the preparation of the National History Standards in the U.S. Perhaps there are lessons to be learned from those experiences.

Tools of historical thinking

Should citizens be able to evaluate the quality of history in their textbooks? How will they do this? Is it even necessary? If the source of India's sovereignty are the people of India, it is essential that citizens are equipped with tools of historical thinking in order to be able to effectively participate in a democracy. An analysis of the history textbooks across education boards shows that the engagement in historical thinking is abysmally low. There are various frameworks that have been proven to develop strong historical thinking such as the SCIM-C (Summarising, Contextualising, Inferring, Monitoring, and Corroborating) or ARCH (Assessment Center for History) or the Historical Thinking Standards articulated by Gary Nash et al. In the third, students engaged in activities draw upon skills in five types of historical thinking: chronological thinking; historical comprehension; historical analysis and interpretation; historical research capabilities; historical issues – analysis and decision-making.

How much work will it take to improve the history curriculum of various State boards? Perhaps, the Delhi government was wise when the Delhi Board of School Education signed an agreement with the International Baccalaureate to adopt the latter's global curriculum framework in government schools. Even the poorest aspire for the best possible education.

It is essential that citizens are equipped with tools of historical thinking in order to be able to effectively participate in a democracy

A holistic heritage conservation plan

Though admirable, efforts towards restoration of heritage sites are still piecemeal

STATE OF PLAY

Serish Nanisetti
serish.n@thehindu.co.in

Five years after the Telangana government brought in a new Heritage Act and scrapped protection for dozens of heritage sites, it appears to have changed tack. There is now a new buzz about heritage and culture. The Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development is not just inaugurating flyovers and other civic projects, but is talking about the conservation and preservation of heritage sites.

The government's show of interest doesn't stop with speeches; large sums of money are being spent on restoration of heritage sites. The 1935 Moazzam Jahi Market was restored at a reported cost of ₹16 crore and the Bansilalpet stepwell at ₹2.6 crore. The conservation/restoration of a century-old library and two municipal markets at a cost of about ₹55 crore is in the pipeline. These projects are being announced and overseen by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development department. Attention has been diverted from the turf battle with the Department of Archaeology and Museums.

Last year, Ramappa temple near Warangal was given the UNESCO World Heritage site tag after India mounted a diplomatic offensive to ensure the coveted status for the 13th century temple. Two other sites – the Golconda stepwells and Domakonda Fort – in the State were winners in UNESCO's Asia-Pacific awards for cultural heritage conservation in 2022. All this recognition has whetted the appetite of the Telangana government. Telangana is in a hurry to get things moving and to cut the

red tape as it wishes to achieve the UNESCO World Heritage City status for Hyderabad, like Ahmedabad and Jaipur. This will help it boost tourism.

The new effort, which involves bypassing regular official channels, local politicians, and special interest groups, seems to be working as pace has clearly picked up and results can be seen on the ground. For too long, Hyderabad has been hobbled by special interest groups which have stymied attempts to improve the core area of the Charminar historical precinct and the heritage around it.

However, the new announcements seem to indicate that the government is adopting a piecemeal approach to conservation. Heritage revitalisation is a complex issue wound around the cultural fabric of the city. The nationally protected Charminar is a 430-year-old marker of the Golconda rulers, who reigned between 1518 and 1687. The grand secular Indo-Sarcenic buildings that line the banks of the River Musi were constructed in the aftermath of flood destruction at the turn of the last century by another set of rulers. It is this continuum of evolution in built heritage and the layers of development that are hallmarks of the city's heritage. These make it worthy of "identification, protection and preservation," say UNESCO guidelines. Focusing on a few marquee sites away from the core heritage zone won't do. As an earlier Government of India and World Bank-aided project noted, "urban renewal activities are compartmentalised both in terms of city development planning and investments". This is a key challenge as revitalisation of built heritage or a site cannot happen in isolation and a holistic perspective is needed.

The World Bank and Government of India project mapped the steps to create an 'inclusive heritage-based city development in India.' The detailed project report identified 4.29 km stretch of the River Musi for action. It prescribed structural improvement to heritage buildings and retaining walls, development of signages in areas of historic significance and communal use, and rehabilitation of tangible and intangible heritage.

Telangana has tourism potential, but a relatively poor inflow of tourists. In April 2022, Hyderabad had a 4.69% share of foreign tourist arrivals compared to the 34.02% in Delhi and 14.2% in Mumbai. An industry report estimates the global tourism market to be a $570 billion industry in 2022 with the Asia-Pacific region having a 40% share. The industry is expected to grow at 3.8% CAGR and reach $778 billion. Add the industry insight that culture and heritage tourists spend more per day and stay longer at a place and it is a win-win situation for the cities that manage to achieve the status of a UNESCO World Heritage City and leverage it.

It is this industry and segment of business that is at stake. A small chunk of that can have a transformative influence on the economy, job creation, and sustainable development in Telangana. But to achieve the goal, the State will need an integrated approach rather than the current pick-and-choose model.

The volume and variety of contraband seized in India

A recently released government report throws light on the innovative ways in which a range of items was smuggled in and out of India

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Gold, dried seahorses, heroin and red sander logs are some examples of items that are seized by Indian Customs and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in airports, along sea routes, and in border areas nearly every day. The report, 'Smuggling in India Report, 2021-22', mentions the volume of illegal commodities seized and describes the kinds of items smuggled and the challenges involved in such operations.

In FY21-22, the DRI seized over ₹400 crore worth of over 800 kilograms of gold transported illegally. **Chart 1** shows that most of the seized gold originated in Myanmar. Many innovative ways were used to smuggle gold into India. An operation named 'molten metal' uncovered a racket wherein gold smuggled in the form of machinery parts was remodelled into bars and cylinders. Another operation code-named 'golden tap' uncovered a syndicate which was smuggling triangle valves made of gold, but coated with nickel to make them look like steel.

In FY21-22, the DRI seized over ₹1,100 lakh worth of illegal foreign currency. As shown in **Chart 2**, most of it was in U.S. dollars followed by the UAE's Dirhams and Saudi Arabia's Riyals. In one instance, $5 lakh of illegal currency was seized from two persons flying to Sharjah from Mumbai.

In FY21-22, over 1,100 lakh sticks of cigarettes worth over ₹93 crore were seized by the DRI. As shown in **Chart 3,** most of them originated in Myanmar followed by the UAE. One such operation where the DRI officials intercepted a six-wheeler truck at Ukhrul, Manipur, led to a seizure of 32,76,800 sticks worth ₹6.5 crore. Cigarettes are smuggled into India given the high taxes imposed on local brands. Most seized packages do not contain pictorial warnings as mandated by the Indian government.

Narcotics weighing 28,334 kilos were seized by the DRI in FY21-22. Most such seizures in FY21-22 were made in Madhya Pradesh followed by Tripura and Maharashtra. **Table 4** shows the break-up of the banned substance for which route data were available. Ganja weighing about 26,900 kilos was seized that year, making it the most smuggled narcotic substance. It was followed by heroin, most of which was apprehended on sea routes. In one instance, over 1,800 cartons of "apple juice" and "pomegranate juice" was imported from Bandar Abbas Port (Iran) and intercepted at Inland Container Depot at Tughlakabad. Upon inspection, many of the cartons were found to have white sediments which turned out to be heroin. In another instance, trolley bags, imported from Entebbe, had hollow metal tubes (as part of the design) which were found to contain heroin. In some cases,

the substance was concealed inside teak wood and licorice roots and in others, it was hidden inside oil cans and mixed with rock salt.

Table 5 shows crimes related to the environment. Elephant tusks worth over ₹700 crore were recovered by the DRI in FY21-22. Ambergris or whale vomit, which is produced by the digestive system of sperm whales and is used in luxury perfumery, is a banned substance in India. A kilo of Ambergris is worth ₹1 crore. In FY21-22, 22.5 kgs of Ambergris were seized by officials. Reptiles and other exotic species such as dried seahorses and star tortoises are also smuggled in often. Seahorses are said to have anti-inflammatory qualities and are used in traditional Chinese medicine. Indian star tortoises are smuggled into the country and sold as exotic pets. Customs officers in Chennai seized 2,247 Indian star tortoises which were smuggled as "mud crabs" in FY21-22.

Customs' duty

The tables and charts were sourced from 'Smuggling in India Report, 2021-22', published by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

Star tortoises seized from an aquarium by forest department officials in Coimbatore. J MANOHARAN

Chart 1: Gold seizures

No. of cases: **160**, qty (in kg): **833.07**, value (in ₹ cr.): **405.35**

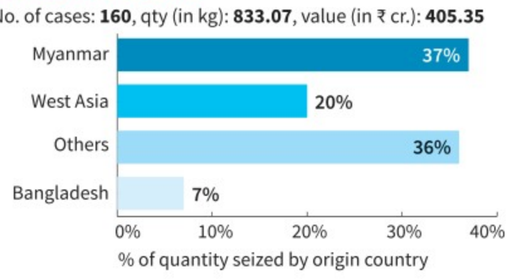


Chart 2: Foreign currency seizures

No. of cases : **13**, value (in ₹ lakh): **1,136.74**

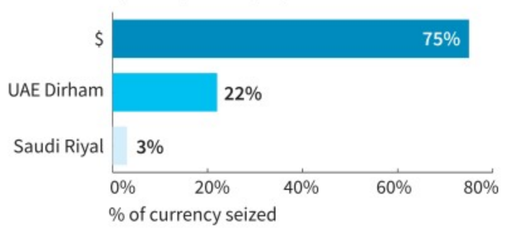


Chart 3: Cigarette seizures

Sticks (in lakh) : **1,102**, value (in ₹ lakh) : **9,332.4**

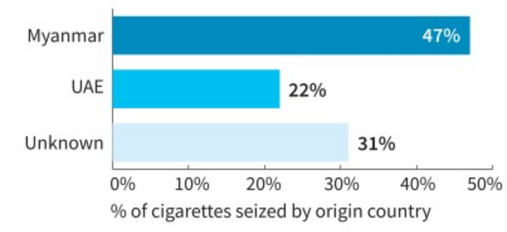


Chart 4: Narcotics seized

The table shows the break-up of the banned substance for which route-data were available

	AIR ROUTE		SEA ROUTE	
Name of the substance	No. of Seizures	Kg	No. of Seizures	Kg
Amphetamine	1	7		
Cocaine	8	4.61	1	303.4
Heroin	24	360.64	2	3013.45
Methamphetamine	1	882.6		
Pseudo-ephedrine	2	19.8	3	72.6
Total	**36**	**1274.65**	**6**	**3389.45**

Ganja seizures were not noted as the route-data were not available

Chart 5: Environment crimes

Common name	No. of incidents	Quantity	Estimated value (₹ crore)
Elephant tusks / Ivory obtained from Elephant tusks	2	27.85 kg	**716.4**
Red sanders logs	14	161.83 MT	**97.05**
Ambergris	1	22.50 kg	**22.5**
Dried sea horses	1	51.42 kg	**0.24**
E-waste, bio-medical and municipal waste (in import)	5	-	**2.63**

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 27, 1972

World will miss his gentle wisdom: Nixon

Madras, Dec. 26: The U.S. President, Mr. Nixon in a message on the death of Rajaji, has said: "People of goodwill everywhere will miss his gentle wisdom." The message, handed over to the President, Mr. Giri, at the Raj Bhavan here this morning by the U.S. Counsel-General said: "In the death of Mr. Rajagopalachari, India and the world have lost a great philosopher-statesman. As a leader of India's freedom movement, as the last Governor-General of India, as Chief Minister of Madras and in other important roles, Mr. Rajagopalachari displayed high intelligence and integrity and profound dedication to his country. People of goodwill everywhere will miss his gentle wisdom. We mourn his passing greatly." Queen Elizabeth of England has said that in the death of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, India has lost a great personality. In a message of condolence to President Giri the Queen said: "I have heard with much sadness the death of Mr. Rajagopalachari, who was the Governor-General of India from 1948 to 1950. He enjoyed a wonderfully long and active life and had a distinguished record of public service to his country. With his passing away India has lost a great personality." In another message to Mr. C.R. Krishnaswamy, Rajaji's son, the Queen said: "I am sorry to learn of the death of your father who held the office of the Governor-General from 1948 to 1950. I have heard that despite his great age he remained very active indeed right upto the end. I have a very happy recollection of meeting him at the Raj Bhavan in Madras during my visit to India in 1961. My husband and I send you our deepest sympathy."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 27, 1922

Irish state

London, Dec. 26: A meeting of Sinn Fein Clubs at Mansion House, Dublin, on Sunday passed a resolution calling for the reconvening of the Ard Feis or Congress of Sinn Fein with a view to securing just and permanent peace. The meeting appointed a Committee of eight to take charge of the matter and decided that, pending the meeting of the Ard Feis, a conference of all Sinn Fein bodies in Dublin County and City be held on January 7th to discuss the best method of bringing about peace.

From Page One

Concocted history led to a sense of inferiority: PM

On the first celebration of Veer Bal Divas, the Prime Minister said it would remind the nation that age did not matter when it came to extreme valour and sacrifice. "Veer Bal Divas will tell us what is India and what is its identity and every year, Veer Bal Divas will inspire us to recognise our past and make our future. This will also remind everyone about the strength of our young generation," he said.

Mr. Modi said, "Aurangzeb and his people wanted to convert the religion of Guru Gobind Singh's children on the basis of the sword. That is why he decided to kill the two innocent children. Imagine that era when against the terror of Aurangzeb, against his plans to change India, Guru Gobind Singh stood like a mountain."

"On the one hand, there was terrorism, and on the other, spiritualism. On the one hand, there was communal violence, and on the other, there was liberalism. On the one hand, there were forces of lakhs, while on the other, there was just *Veer Sahibzaade* who did not budge at all," he said, referring to the two martyred children of the Guru.

"On the one hand, there was the mighty Mughal Sultanate blinded by religious fanaticism, while on the other hand, there were our Gurus gleaming in the knowledge and living by the ancient principles of India," the Prime Minister said.

The Chief Ministers of Punjab and Maharashtra, Bhagwant Mann and Eknath Shinde, respectively, and Union Ministers Hardeep Singh Puri, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Meenakshi Lekhi were present.

CBI arrests Videocon chief in loan fraud case

Mr. Dhoot was produced before a Mumbai special court that sent him to three-day CBI custody. In January 2019, the agency registered a case alleging *quid pro quo* in sanctioning loans of ₹1,875 crore to the Videocon Group entities during Ms. Kochhar's tenure.

Based on the CBI's first information report, the Enforcement Directorate is conducting a probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. It had arrested Mr. Kochhar in September 2020 after attaching properties worth ₹78.15 crore, which included a Mumbai flat in the name of Ms. Kochhar and other assets belonging to Mr. Kochhar's Nu-Power Renewables Private Limited and its subsidiaries.

The ED had alleged that Ms. Kochhar and her family bought the flat at a nominal price by taking over a Videocon Group entity through a family trust. It was also alleged that Mr. Dhoot invested ₹64 crore in Mr. Kochhar's company via Supreme Energy Private Limited, which was later transferred to Mr. Kochhar-controlled Pinnacle Energy Trust.

It is alleged that during Ms. Kochhar's tenure from June 2009 to October 2011, the ICICI Bank had sanctioned six high-value loans to the Videocon Group entities. The outstanding balance against the loans, as on April 26, 2012, was adjusted as another term loan of ₹1,730 crore. The loan accounts were declared non-performing assets in June 2017.

'Create in India', says task force on AVGC

The team, which emphasised skilling and industry outreach for youth in tier-2 and 3 towns and villages, said there should be special incentives for women entrepreneurs in the sector and promotion of local children's channels for raising awareness of the rich culture and history of India among children and youth. It also suggested the establishment of a framework to ensure protection of child rights in the digital world.

India today contributes about $2.5-3 billion of the estimated $260-275 billion worldwide AVGC market. According to industry experts, the Indian market that currently employs about 1.85 lakh AVGC professionals, can witness a growth of 14-16% in the next decade.

Salem temple sealed after entry is denied to Dalits

The Hindu Bureau
SALEM

Revenue officials sealed Sakthi Mariamman temple at Virudasampatti after caste Hindus prevented the entry of Dalits on Sunday.

According to the police, the temple near Nangavalli comes under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department. A few months ago, caste Hindus renovated the temple at a cost of ₹60 lakh, and the consecration ceremony was held. In the past, Dalit families in the village were not allowed to enter the temple. Revenue officials conducted talks with both sides on October 31 after which the Dalits were allowed into the temple. However, when the Dalits arrived at the temple on Sunday to take part in the special pujas, they were stopped by caste Hindu women. Tension prevailed after the incident.

The police rushed to the spot and security was beefed up to prevent any untoward incident. The revenue officials tried negotiating, but caste Hindus were firm in their stand.

A life in fear of attacks for tribal Christians of Bastar

Shubhomoy Sikdar
BHOPAL

The reluctance of the families of Reshma Korram, 33, and Rupji Salam, 29, to return home offers a glimpse of an edgy recent past and an uncertain future.

Among the many tribal Christian families who fled from over a dozen villages in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh after they were attacked by assailants between December 16 and 18, Ms. Korram and Mr. Salam were camping at an indoor stadium in the district headquarters when they spoke to *The Hindu* over the phone late last week. The assurances provided by the administration has had little impact.

The affected families allege that the attacks on Christians were coordinated and the handiwork of fellow tribal villagers at the behest of right-wing groups. They describe it as the latest chapter in the rise in violent incidents over alleged religious conversions in Narayanpur, 350 km south of the State capital Raipur, and in other districts of the Bastar region.

"We were attacked because of our faith. Since the past year and a half, my family has embraced Christianity, which many in the village don't like. The village *Patel* (priest) was among those who attacked me. When they asked me why was I reluctant to live harmoniously, I replied that I was not harming anybody and was free to profess any faith I wished to," Mr. Salam, a farmer, said.

Seeking peace: An indoor stadium in Narayanpur where some of the victims of the attacks are camping. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Broader resistance

Observers say that the recent spate of violence in Bastar is a battle over culture and the pushback to missionaries is happening in a more organised manner. While missionaries have been preaching in the interior region for decades, a newfound tribal consciousness about identity has led to a broader resistance.

According to Manoj Pandey, a filmmaker who has been documenting the Bastar region for the past two decades, education and impact of digitisation has also led to a stronger response from fellow tribal people.

"Bastar is home to tribes such as Gonds, Muria and Halba who are scattered in different pockets. On the one hand, there are those who fear that any change which a different faith brings, would lead to old customs dying and may even invite the wrath of their deities. On the other, there are many who have received education and have a newfound consciousness towards their identity and customs," Mr. Pandey said.

Pastor Sindhu Kumar Das, the Christian forum president from Kondagaon, added that administrative apathy had also encouraged the attackers against those who assert their right to profess and practise a new religion.

"A month ago, when there was a death in one of the Christian families, they buried the deceased in their own land, but the villagers with the help of the local police exhumed the body and buried it elsewhere. Such incidents are becoming increasingly frequent," said Mr. Das, who blames the Sarva Aadivasi Samaj, a group that claims to represent the various tribes in the region, for the latest "coordinated attacks" and pegs the number of victims at 400.

Prakash Thakur, the president of the Bastar division of the Sarva Aadivasi Samaj, denied his group's role in the violence but admitted that a conflict was raging in interior Bastar.

"We worship nature and the respective deities of our tribes which they don't. They do not follow the established social order, such as customs followed during birth, marriage or death. We are not for violence but if someone has lost their way, the onus is on us to bring them back," he said. Sources also allege that the Sarv Aadivasi Samaj was backed by Bharatiya Janata Party that has often raised the issue of conversion in the region.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel finally broke his silence on the matter on December 23. "Met the representatives of the Christian community in Delhi today. I informed them about the developments in Bastar and the action taken by the government. No one is above the law in Chhattisgarh. Any person who spreads disharmony in society will not be spared," he tweeted.

Arun Pannalal, president of the Chhattisgarh Christian Forum, said on Monday that when the police went to the villages to resettle the displaced Christians, other villagers blatantly refused, even if that meant going to jail. This, he said, was a sign of the things to come as he made little of the assurances provided by the CM.

Expedite classification of nomadic tribes in quota lists, panel tells Centre

Parliamentary panel on Social Justice and Empowerment notes the process has been 'very slow'; says the delay will increase communities' suffering and deprive them of welfare scheme benefits

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The parliamentary panel on Social Justice and Empowerment has pulled up the Union government over the "very slow" process to categorise over 260 denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes under the SC/ST/OBC lists. Government officials have pointed out that this has delayed the approval of benefits under the SEED (Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs) launched in February this year.

The scheme was launched by Union Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar, with the aim of providing free competitive exam coaching, health insurance, housing assistance, and livelihood initiatives. An amount of ₹200 crore has been allocated for this scheme – to be spent over five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

As of December 26 evening, a total of over 5,400 applications had been received under the SEED, none of which have been approved and no amount has been sanctioned.

In red tape: Over 5,400 applications had been received under the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs. FILE PHOTO

The panel, in a report tabled in Parliament this Winter Session, noted that it had earlier too flagged the "inability of the department to take necessary action" on the speedy and accurate categorisation of these communities.

After the government said that the work was proceeding and would be finished by 2022, the panel said the process was still very slow. It added, "Delay in locating them would increase their suffering and they would not be able to get benefit of the prevailing schemes meant for the welfare of SC/STs."

The panel further said it expects the government to expedite this exercise and finish it in a time-bound manner and sought detailed timelines for the same.

Department's response

In response to the panel's concerns, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment had submitted that the Anthropological Survey of India had submitted reports on categorisation of 48 DNT communities so far. In addition, of the 267 communities not categorised so far, the AnSI has finished studies on 24 communities, with Tribal Research Institutes studying 12 of the communities.

Further, the AnSI is finalising studies on 161 communities and is expected to finish studying the remaining communities (about 70) by the end of 2022.

More than 10 crore Indians from over 1,400 communities are either denotified, nomadic or semi-nomadic. Of this, the Idate Commission had categorised 1,262 communities under SC/ST/OBC lists and 267 communities were left uncategorised. Even the communities categorised by the Idate Commission are not accurate with many communities appearing in SC lists in one State or district and on the ST list in another.

Uttarakhand Police book VHP activist, church officials over conversion row

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Church authorities alleged that the VHP activists thrashed them and disturbed their prayers

The Uttarkashi police in Utarakhand have filed a cross FIR against the authorities of a church and an activist of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) after they filed complaints against each other.

While the activist alleged "conversion" during Christmas celebrations, the church authorities alleged that VHP activists thrashed them and disturbed their prayers which had nothing to do with conversion.

K.S. Rawat, station incharge, Purola police station, said a group of men led by VHP activist Vijendra Singh Rawat approached the police alleging that some missionaries were trying to convert a group of people in Chhiwala village.

"Before we could figure out the reality behind the complaint, the members of the church too approached the police to lodge an FIR against VHP for thrashing them and disturbing their prayers," Mr. Rawat said.

Based on the complaints, the police booked unidentified persons for rioting, criminal intimidation and mischief causing damage. Another FIR was lodged against the church authorities under Sections of the IPC for promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and voluntarily causing hurt, among others. The church authorities were also booked under the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018.

A protest was held in Purola on Monday demanding action in the "conversion" allegations. The protesters alleged that the police were trying to hush up the matter.

Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) V. Murugesan said the police were investigating both complaints.

BSF jawan beaten to death in Gujarat

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was allegedly beaten to death in Gujarat after he protested against the circulation of an obscene video of his teenage daughter. The incident occurred in a village in Kheda district of central Gujarat.

According to sources, the deceased, Meljibhai Vaghela, on Saturday had gone to the house of a 15-year-old boy who had allegedly posted the video online.

After a brief altercation, Mr. Vaghela was attacked by the boy's family using sticks and sharp objects. He later died of his injuries. The police have launched a probe.

Zelensky speaks to Modi about G-20, thanks India for aid and UN support

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday to discuss India's ongoing G-20 Presidency. During the conversation, the Ukrainian President sought support for his "10-point Peace Plan". The call marks the fourth telephone conversation between the two leaders this year, and comes days after Mr. Zelensky's visit to Washington, his first trip abroad since the war in Ukraine began in February.

Narendra Modi

Apart from the G-20, Mr. Zelensky thanked India for its help during the war. Mr. Modi also asked the Ukrainian President to help "facilitate arrangements for the continued education of Indian students" who had to return from Ukraine earlier this year.

"I had a phone call with PM Narendra Modi and wished [India] a successful G20 Presidency. It was on this platform that I announced the peace formula and now I count on India's participation in its implementation. I also thanked for humanitarian aid and support in the UN," Mr. Zelensky tweeted.

10 steps to peace

Mr. Zelensky's reference to the peace formula entails a plan he had discussed at the G-20 summit in Bali, where he listed 10 steps to peace: ensuring "radiation and nuclear safety; food security; energy security; release of all prisoners and deported persons; implementation of the UN Charter and restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and the world order; withdrawal of Russian troops and cessation of hostilities; restoration of justice; countering ecocide (economic suppression); preventing escalation; and finally – confirmation of the end of the war".

In a statement, the government said Mr. Modi "strongly reiterated his call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, and said that both sides should revert to dialogue and diplomacy to find a lasting solution to their differences", while also offering India's support for any peace efforts.

The Modi-Zelensky conversation is significant as India's G-20 Presidency has already begun with a number of meetings to finalise the agenda for the summit expected in September 2023. The External Affairs Ministry did not comment on whether Mr. Modi invited President Zelensky to the summit. Russian President Vladimir Putin has been invited to attend both the G-20 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summits in India.

While India's position at the UN has been to abstain on all resolutions critical of Russia's actions, the government has repeatedly called for "dialogue and diplomacy" to end the conflict in which thousands have died and eight million people have fled the violence. In August, India's Ambassador to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, said that India had dispatched 11 consignments of approximately 97.5 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Criticism against India

The phone call also followed an outburst by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who criticised India for "benefiting from Ukrainian suffering" as it continued to ramp up imports of Russian oil.

"We are waiting for the moment when Indian foreign policy will call a spade a spade, and name the conflict – not 'war in Ukraine', but what it is, a 'Russian aggression against Ukraine'," Mr. Kuleba had said earlier this month.

In an interview on Sunday, Mr. Putin blamed the Ukrainian leadership for refusing to come to the table for talks, but did not offer a ceasefire or explain what the "acceptable solutions" he was offering would be.

NCPCR warns NGOs over depiction of vulnerable children for fundraising

SPECIAL

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The practice of civil society organisations using representative visuals for fundraising activities concerning development issues such as malnutrition now faces new scrutiny, with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) issuing a directive to non-governmental organisations (NGO) not to depict vulnerable children.

A 2013 campaign by a U.K.-based NGO, Save the Children, titled "Khushi", featured a 20-month-old baby lying on a hospital bed at a malnutrition treatment centre in Tonk, Rajasthan. The baby was videographed as a helpless and needy child, with the camera zooming into a close-up of her face and eyes as she looks morosely into it.

The narrator describes her as a malnourished child in need of help and makes an ardent appeal: "Please, will you help? Please, donate ₹500 a month and make a difference."

The campaign, which aimed to raise money for the NGO's initiative against malnutrition, came under scrutiny from several corners over the use of the images of a vulnerable child.

The campaign ran for several years even as some within the NGO were shocked that their organisation did not know the latest on the well-being and whereabouts of the child featured in its campaign.

Now, another campaign by the same NGO, titled "Anand", depicting an emaciated infant whose ribs can be seen sticking out under his skin, is at the centre of a fresh controversy that has sparked a debate on the imagery among child rights organisations.

On December 2, the NCPCR wrote to NGOs across the country on the practice of "raising funding, domestic as well as international, for their NGOs through advertisement while showing vulnerable minor children in deplorable conditions".

The letter asked NGOs to refrain from such depiction as it amounted to a violation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

This missive was preceded by another letter from the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) on November 2 to all States and Union Territories.

The letter named Save the Children and its campaign to tackle malnutrition in tribal children by raising ₹800 from the general public, and called it misleading on the ground that the issue of malnutrition was being "vigorously pursued" by the government through its Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme.

It also asked States to "report" similar incidents involving NGOs, take "appropriate measures to expose the false information" and "alert beneficiaries about false claims made by them". Both the letters were based on a detailed complaint by a Rajya Sabha member.

Ensuring welfare: The rights body said that such depictions amount to violation of the Juvenile Justice Act. FILE PHOTO

Sudharshan Suchi, CEO of Save the Children, did not respond to a questionnaire e-mailed to him, seeking details of his organisation's policy on the use of imagery involving children, and the whereabouts of the child "Khushi".

Images taken down

The images from the "Anand" campaign have since been pulled down and the NGO's website is now replete with images of happy children.

Save the Children's "statement of principles" regarding the use of imagery, specifically the portrayal of children in a 2017 document – it updated its media policy following widespread criticism – available on its website states its "clear priority is to generate the response that will help fund our work" which requires that "we create and publish challenging, hard-hitting imagery".

However, efforts are made to ensure it does not objectify, belittle or dehumanise children, the NGO says. Informed consent of the subject or their family is obtained for photos and it is ensured that they understand the use to which their images may be put as well as the possible consequences, the NGO says. It adds that rigorous procedures are also undertaken to minimise any risk to the children, and no more than two of the following pieces of information are given out: a child's full name, image and location.

The Ethical Image Policy of another NGO, WaterAid, also pays attention to what is allowed or not allowed in post-production, and how long images can be used. In order to ensure visual representation is more egalitarian and participatory, it has also started hiring and training local people to work as "photo, film and story gatherers", and trains children and young adults in Pakistan and Nepal to use cameras to communicate issues that affect them.

The UNICEF's "Eight quick steps to ethical imagery" suggests asking the question – "If she/he were my child, how would I want her/him portrayed?" It also warns against the other extreme of using happy and cute images of children as they "tend to objectify children into an idealised and sentimentalised happiness that negates the complexity of their real life".

Many in the civil society have welcomed the government's directive.

"We ensure that we don't present children in their vulnerability, though those representations appeal most to the people. Instead we present strength and dignity. The poorest of children do laugh and have managed to live with dignity. Therefore, the government's position is the right one," Kavita Ratna, director, advocacy and fundraising, The Concerned for Working Children, said.

But the agency of the subjects involved is crucial and if it is the decision of the community to be depicted in a difficult situation, then that is also taken into account, she added.

Ms. Ratna, however, points out that there is also a need for a mind shift as the donor community appears to need or respond to evocative pictures in fund-raising.

The government's concern over visual representation of children comes at a time when it has doggedly challenged global reports on rising levels of malnutrition in India.

In 2020, a warning on how COVID-19's impact on access to healthcare services and food systems could result in a rise in malnourished children led to Smriti Irani, the Minister for Women and Child Development, calling up the UN headquarters.

The Union government has also repeatedly rejected India's performance in the Global Hunger Index and questioned the methodology. India was ranked 107 among 121 countries in 2022 on the index.

Congress, BJP trade barbs over Rahul Gandhi's visit to Vajpayee's memorial

The BJP accuses the leader of doing a 'drama' by visiting Sadaiv Atal, the Congress hits back by stating that the ruling party was rattled by the popularity of the Bharat Jodo Yatra; Jairam Ramesh says the Modi government is trying to 'defame' Rahul and 'derail' yatra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A war of words broke out between the Congress and the BJP over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to the memorial to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

While the BJP accused Mr. Gandhi of doing a "drama" by visiting Sadaiv Atal, the Congress hit back by stating that the BJP was rattled by the popularity of the yatra.

"This morning, Rahul Gandhi, in keeping with the spirit of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, offered floral tributes at the *samadhis* of Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Charan Singh, Rajiv Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Jagjivan Ram," Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

Rahul Gandhi paying floral tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Later in the day, Mr. Ramesh, addressing a press conference along with party colleague Supriya Shrinate, alleged that the Narendra Modi government was trying to "defame" Mr. Gandhi and was trying to "derail" the yatra.

Ms. Shrinate accused the BJP of running a disinformation campaign against Mr. Gandhi and the yatra.

She said the ruling party should now start Rahul Gandhi Troll Ministry and appoint Union Minister Smriti Irani as its chief.

Mr. Ramesh said the Intelligence Bureau (IB) was trying to "terrorise" people who met Mr. Gandhi and was keeping track of the social activists, ex-servicemen, and leaders of farmers' organisations who met him during the yatra. He said the party had registered a police case against two IB officials at Sohna (Haryana) after they were found to have trespassed into the yatra camp site.

The BJP is misusing the government agencies, the Congress leader added.

Attacking the Congress, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala referred to a controversial tweet by Gaurav Pandhi, a coordinator with party president Mallikarjun Kharge's office, where he [Pandhi] claimed that during the Quit India movement, Vajpayee had sided with the British regime.

"Gaurav Pandhi has deleted his tweet but that is not enough. Congress must clarify its stand and apologise. Must sack serial offender Pandhi. Or else we will be forced to believe that *Shabd Pandhi ke, soch Rahul Gandhi ki* (words were of Pandhi but the thinking was of Rahul Gandhi's)," he tweeted.

Azad questions 'iron-hand' policy of govt. in J&K, warns of 'further alienation'

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Democratic Azad Party chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday questioned the iron-hand policy adopted by the government in J&K, and warned "of further alienation" in the Union Territory.

"We have to fight militancy but not act in a way that produces more militants and causes further alienation. We should see to it that we are not producing more militants instead. Kashmir is witnessing rampant arrests. There has to be a separate policy for militants and for the common man to ensure his dignity is safeguarded," Mr. Azad, who visited south Kashmir's Anantnag, said.

"Militant is one who has crossed the border or someone who was found conspiring against the country. One cannot punish someone for what he said or did 30-40 years ago. Killing a person should be the last resort. But do not go after a person who spoke loudly and met someone. Such people should be made to understand. Don't people commit mistakes in the country? Do we kill them?" Mr. Azad said.

"I don't see surrenders taking place anymore," he added.

Backing protesting Pandit employees, he said, "Targeted killings have infused fear in Pandit employees and affected their kids' education. To save lives, they should be temporarily transferred to Jammu."

Congress leaders meet J&K L-G to discuss security for yatra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leaders, including general secretary organisation K.C. Venugopal, met Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday to discuss security arrangements for the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The yatra led by Rahul Gandhi will enter the Union Territory next month.

All India Congress Committee in-charge for the Union Territory Rajani Patil and Congress leaders Vikar Rasool Wani and Ghulam Ahmad Mir were also present at the meeting.

"Bharat Jodo Yatra is marching towards its final destination – J&K. Held a meeting today with the Lt. Governor of J&K Shri Manoj Sinha*ji* along with senior party leaders. Discussed the security arrangements and sought the cooperation of the administration," Mr. Venugopal said in a tweet after the meeting.

The Kanniyakumari-to-Kashmir yatra has so far travelled over 3,000 km across nine States and is on a nine-day winter break. It will resume on January 3.

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India
(An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India)
P.O. Bo # 18, Chandrabani, Dehra Dun (Uttarakhand) – 248 001
EPBAX: +91-135-2640111 TO 2640115, FAX: 2640117
Website: www.wii.gov.in, Email: registrarpr@wii.gov.in

ADVERTISEMENT NO. WII/ADM/2022/32

Filling of the post of Finance Officer on transfer on deputation

Applications are invited for filling of one post of **Finance Officer** in Wildlife Institute of India (WII) on transfer on deputation basis. The Assistant Accounts/Audit Officers, Accounts/Audit Officers from Organized Accounts Services of Govt. of India may apply. Deputation Allowance as per rules will be applicable.
The detailed advertisement, terms and conditions are available at WII's website **www.wii.gov.in**. Last date for submission of application is 23.01.2023.

Registrar
Wildlife Institute of India
Dehradun

TrEST Research Park
(An Institution under Government of Kerala)
Notice inviting Tender

Bids invited to set up an EV Motor Test System – 30 KW and 150 KW. Tender id: **2022_TrEST_542405_1 .**

Ph: 0471 2598555 **Chief Executive Officer**
Thiruvananthapuram Visit : **etenders.kerala.gov.in**

ओएनजीसी ONGC Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
RAJAHMUNDRY ASSET, RAJAHMUNDRY (A.P.)
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

For Pre-Qualification of vendors to **Civil works for Land development for new surface facility at Nagayalanka GGS, Krishna Area** (Estimated cost of work: Rs.5,66,93,137.09).The Joint Venture (JV) comprising Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), and Vedanta Ltd (Cairn Oil & Gas) is developing the Nagayalanka oilfield located about 80 Kms. from Vijayawada. The Joint Venture has proposed to **Civil works for Land development for new surface facility at Nagayalanka GGS, Krishna area**.The JV is looking for interested vendors having previous experience in **Any Nature of Civil Construction / Civil Maintenance works**.**(1)** Vendors having the required capability and possessing relevant experience and eligibility criteria may respond to this EOI and should come along with supporting documents in respect of Eligibility Criteria stipulated in PQC, From **27.12.2022, 10:00:00 Hrs to 11.01.2023, 14:00:00 Hrs**.**(2)**Submit the documents latest by **15:00 Hrs on 11.01.2023.DGM (Civil), In-Charge:Tender Cell, Room No. SC-13, Godavari Bhavan, ONGC Base Complex,Rajahmundry – 533106**. **Note:**Interested bidders to note that, there will be no further extension under any circumstances, since the project has to be rolled out on fast track basis. For details of the vendor qualification criteria, please visit our website: **https://tenders.ongc.co.in**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for supply of **"1,20,000 Kgs of Cashew Wholes (W320 Variety) for a period of one month and 1,80,000 kgs of Dried Grapes (Indian Brown) for a period of 04 Months through e-tenders - cum- e-reverse tendering"** to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the website **http://www.tirumala.org. and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**. For Further details **Contact Phone Numbers : 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No. 0877-2264554**

ROC No. PR4/13949/Adv. No.319/ PRO/2022, Dated: 26.12.2022 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
O/o CE (Civil), 201, Rajasthali Mall, M.I.Road, Ajmeri Gate, Jaipur-302001
E-TENDER NOTICE: TN-09 (RVU2223SLOB01805)

E-tenders are invited for the work of **Survey and geotechnical investigation work for 1x125 MW Lignite based Thermal Power Plant at Gurha (W), Village-Gurha, Distt-Bikaner.** Tender details are available on websites **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl** & **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**.

Raj.Samwad/C/22/12281 RVUN/PR-3782 **Chief Engineer (Civil)**

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005
Ph. No. : 0141-2223887, Fax : 0141-2228065, E-Mail : edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in

No. : F-8( )RMSC/EPM/M-4/2022-23/1766 Dated :- 16/12/2022

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bids for Item PLASTIC PALLET are invited from interested bidders up to 18.01.2023; 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal websie **"https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in"** or **"www.dipronline.org"** or **"https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in"** or website **"http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in".**

UBN No. : MSC2223GLRC00103 **Executive Director (EPM)**
Raj.Samwad/C/22/12273 **Rajasthan Medical Services Corp. Ltd., Jaipur**

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Quotations (RFQ)

Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No. /Credit No. : 9066-IN
Grant No. :
Date : **December 26, 2022**

The Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invitesRequest for Quotationsfrom National Suppliersfor the Goods Procurementas detailed in the table below: -

Sr. No.	Description of the goods procurement	Date of availability of Request for Quotations on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/time for submission/ opening of Proposals
1.	**Procurement of Additional Equipment to Support Annual Enforcement Program of HP Police in Shimla & Nurpur Police Districts**	**December 26, 2022**	**January13, 2023 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)**

Request for Quotation (RFQ) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html.

Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Quotations Document shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **January13, 2023 at 15:00 hours (IST)** positively.

Director (Projects)-cum-CE,
H.P. State Roads Project,
HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar,
Shimla-171002

HP/ 0651/2022-2023

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/EST-E-1884/01/2022 33660 Dated :- 23.12.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement-2nd

Name of the Work : Phase-I Development of Dombosara, Rayagada MSME Park, Odisha.
Estimated Cost : Rs.1872.67 Lakhs (apprx).
Period of Completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar months.
Pre-Bid meeting is to be conducted on dtd. 05.01.2023 at 12.30 P.M.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Idco Tower, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Id. No. PC/EST/E-130 / 2022-23	17.00 Hours of 30.12.2022	17.00 Hours of 16.01.2023

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.Tendersorissa.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tenderorissa.gov.in** and IDCO Website www.idco.in.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-4278 OIPR-14003/11/0241/2223

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMC)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 001
Tel.:(0674) 2380680; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives

Notification No.10211 Date : 23.12.2022

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF AUTO DISABLE LANCET

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipments as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL / 2022-23 / EQP-ADLANCET / 16	SUPPLY OF AUTO DISABLE LANCET (SAFETY LANCET)	5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	26.12.2022, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid meeting	03.01.2023, 03.00 PM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		09.01.2023, 3 PM	24.01.2023, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	27.01.2023, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director
OSMC Ltd., Odisha

CAD-4265 OIPR-10112/11/0050/2223

INBRIEF

Drugs estimated at ₹300 cr. seized near Gujarat coast

In a joint operation with the Gujarat's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) seized a Pakistani boat with 10 crew members carrying arms, ammunition and 40 kg of narcotics worth ₹300 crore off the Gujarat coast, in the early hours of Monday. In a press release, the ICG said that the Pakistani fishing boat *Al Soheli* was observed moving suspiciously in the Indian waters and started evasive manoeuvring, and did not stop even after warning shots were fired. The ICG eventually managed to stop the boat and inspected the boat. The crew members and boat are being brought to the Okha port for further investigation.

U.P. man gets bail after giving ₹10,000 in service of cows

The Allahabad High Court released a man, who was accused of cow slaughter, on bail after his counsel told the court that he was ready to deposit ₹10,000 in *Gau Seva Aayog* (cow service commission). The single-judge Bench of Justice Prakash Singh on December 23 allowed Saleem to be released on bail who was booked under Sections 3, 5 and 8 of the Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955, in Ambedkar Nagar of Uttar Pradesh. Counsel of the accused told the court that his client, who was in jail since September 30, had been falsely implicated in the case. The lawyer maintained that his client was never involved in any anti-social activities and had never been part of any criminal gang.

Union Finance Minister admitted to AIIMS

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been admitted to AIIMS hospital in New Delhi, sources said on Monday. "Nothing serious. She is fine," a source said on condition of anonymity. It was not immediately clear as to why she was hospitalised. The Finance Ministry did not respond to any query. On Saturday, she attended the 35th annual convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University in Chennai. Meanwhile, on Sunday, the Finance Minister paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary at 'Sadaiv Atal' in New Delhi. REUTERS

Mehrauli murder: Poonawala taken to record voice sample

Aaftab Amin Poonawala, accused in the Mehrauli murder case, was on Monday taken to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in New Delhi to record his voice sample after police came across an audio clip in which he was allegedly heard fighting with Shraddha Walkar. The voice sample of the accused, currently lodged in Tihar Jail, will be checked to see if it matches the male voice in the clip, they said. "It is an old clip but could prove to be crucial evidence," a source said. Sources also said the team has got an alleged video of Mr. Poonawala and Walkar from a witness' phone in which he is allegedly seen being "counselled". PTI

Nationwide mock drill on COVID-19 to be held today

Referring to the surge in virus cases in many countries, the Health Ministry says it is necessary that public health measures are put in place to meet any exigencies that India may face

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A mock drill will be held on Tuesday across health facilities in several States and Union Territories to ensure that they are ready to deal with any eventuality related to COVID-19, following an advisory by the Centre.

It will focus on parameters such as availability of health facilities (covering all districts), capacity of isolation beds, oxygen-supported beds, ICU beds and ventilator-supported beds, and optimal availability of doctors, nurses, paramedics, AYUSH doctors, and other frontline workers, including ASHA and Anganwadi workers.

It will also focus on the human resource capacity in terms of healthcare professionals trained in COVID-19 management, ventilatory management protocol for severe cases, operation of PSA plants and so on and availability of advanced and basic life support (ALS/BLS) ambulances, testing equipment and others.

Measures in place: This exercise is to ensure operational readiness of the health facilities for management of COVID-19. PTI

Operational readiness

Referring to the surge in COVID-19 cases in many countries around the world, the Union Health Ministry on Saturday underlined that it was necessary that all States and U.T.s implement necessary public health measures to meet any exigencies.

"Preparedness of COVID-19 health facilities is crucial to ensure that States and districts are ready to meet the increase in clinical care needs due to any spurt in cases," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in a letter.

"The objective of this exercise is to ensure operational readiness of these health facilities for management of COVID-19," he said. Mr. Bhushan further said follow-up on any gap assessment shall be required to be undertaken by the Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, Secretary (Health) and MD-NHM of States who will be required to monitor the exercise personally under the guidance of the Health Minister of respective States.

Delhi government officials on Monday began visiting all government hospitals in the city to ascertain their preparedness to deal with any eventuality, authorities said.

"An inventory of beds, liquid medical oxygen, ventilators and other equipment is being prepared. It will be ready by Monday evening," East Delhi District Magistrate Anil Banka said.

India saw a single-day rise of 196 new coronavirus infections, while active cases marginally increased to 3,428, according to Union Health Ministry data.

On the draw

CBI reopens inquiry into 'corruption case' against Lalu Prasad

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reopened a preliminary inquiry into a corruption case allegedly linked to former Union Minister Lalu Prasad and others, according to an agency official.

The official said that the inquiry was earlier closed as no proof was found during the probe, but it had now been reopened as "new facts" related to the matter had come to the agency's notice.

The CBI is examining the allegation of corruption in the allotment of some Railway projects. A major real-estate company and a shell entity, using which a South Delhi property was transferred, are under the scanner.

A preliminary inquiry is being carried out to check the veracity of the allegation. If the agency comes across any *prima facie* proof about the commission of an offence, the CBI registers a regular case for a formal investigation into the matter.

Man detained after 15-kg IED recovered in Udhampur

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

A major tragedy was averted on Monday as an improvised explosive device (IED) weighing 15 kg was recovered in Udhampur.

Officials said the IED was recovered from the Basantghar area following a specific input generated by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"A code sheet and five detonators were also seized. A letter pad of the Lashkar-e-Taiba was also recovered near the site," officials said. Later, a suspect was detained in the area for questioning.

In a separate operation in north Kashmir' Kupwara district, the police arrested Mohammed Azam Daniyal, and seized arms and ammunition from him. The accused is allegedly involved in smuggling arms, ammunition and narcotics from across the border.

"One pistol, two pistol magazines and 43 pistol rounds were recovered which he had buried ," the police said.

Centre mandates universal digital capturing of MGNREGS attendance

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Digital capture of the attendance of workers employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been made universal by the Centre from January 1.

The Union government, arguing for transparency and accountability in May 2021, had started a pilot project to capture attendance via a mobile application, the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS).

From May 16, 2022 capturing attendance via the app was made compulsory for all worksites with 20 or more workers. This required uploading two time-stamped and geo-tagged photographs of the workers.

The job fell on the mates/supervisors, who are paid only marginally more than the unskilled workers. There were widespread complaints over the lack of technical support, the necessity to own a smartphone, paying for an Internet connection, and issues with erratic Internet connectivity.

Bugs detected : The directive comes even as many loopholes pointed out earlier by users were not plugged yet. G.N. RAO

In the latest order, dated December 23, the Ministry has ordered that digitally capturing attendance is now mandatory for all worksites, regardless of the number of workers engaged, and will be applicable from January 1, 2023.

This directive comes even as many complaints and loopholes pointed out earlier by users have not been plugged yet. Siraj Dutta, who is associated with the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha in Jharkhand, points out three major problems with the new system. The app-based attendance system carries forward the problem with electronic muster rolls, which replaced the paper muster rolls and was in use before the NMMS was introduced. Here, the muster roll has to be generated based on demand and therefore, no worker can come and join at the worksite. And if out of the 10 workers on the electronic muster roll, only two turn up, usually the worksite is not opened, therefore, in a way, denying them work too.

"The second big problem is the two-time stamped photographs. Often, the workers may finish their work but are forced to return to the worksite for the second photograph," Mr. Dutta said.

The endless conditions placed on MGNREGS workers themselves, many activists feel, is enough to dissuade them from relying on the scheme, thus failing its basic purpose. "Every time they [the government] have brought in a technology-based solution, they claim it will remove corruption. Are they saying now that they are capturing attendance via a mobile application, there will be no corruption? These are blatant methods to reduce the spread and effectiveness of the programme," Nikhil Dey, founder member of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, said.

Put disputed areas under Centre's rule, says Uddhav

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday demanded that the disputed districts located along the boundary between Maharashtra and Karnataka be brought under Central rule till the Supreme Court decides on the issue.

Speaking in the Maharashtra Legislative Council, Mr. Thackeray traded barbs on the issue with leaders of the rival Shiv Sena camp led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Hitting out at Mr. Shinde's "passiveness", he said that while Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was making one provocative statement after another, Mr. Shinde was "reluctant" to speak on the issue.

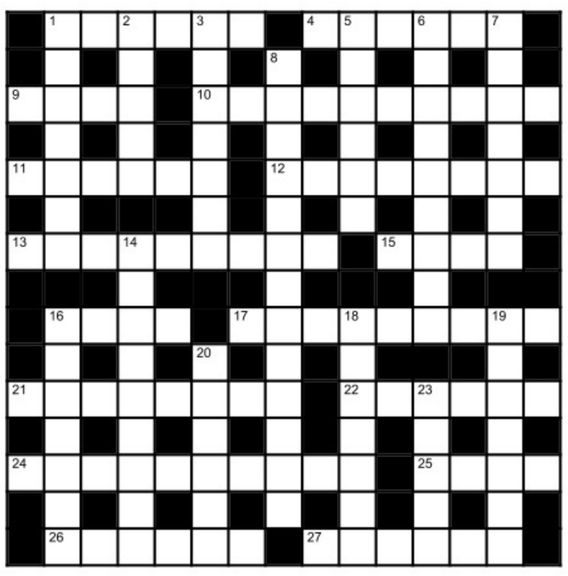
"The restraint that Maharashtra has been showing has not been reciprocated by Karnataka. It is pointless to pass resolutions in the Legislature," Mr. Thackeray said in the Council.

TH CROSSWORD + 13747

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Slips of lawyers (6)
4 Leader of America in revolting roles (6)
9 Food containing starch and no flatulence, from the East (4)
10 Cutlery to frustrate girls, per Spooner (10)
11 Scan hurried upon finding time inadequate, basically! (6)
12 Relatives try to get daughter married before son lands (8)
13 Striking for author's books (9)
15 Cry of a little kitten born inverted (4)
16 Part of wonderful nature (4)
17 Sculpture of novelist outside Cuba's borders (9)
21 Plant in avenue containing small exercise area (5,3)
22 Return without catching kite, gutted in winds (6)
24 Olympic medallist strangely ran up via Rome's centre (5,5)
25 Disregard first half of eccentric story teller (4)
26 Sexy secretary on vacation jammed with band (6)
27 Frequently knock off beers to join close friend (6)

Down

1 Alert Bahrain using Twitter (7)
2 Foul stroke in snooker starts to irritate nasty old fellows (2,3)
3 Group providing advance for current novels, say (7)
5 Crabs entering burrows faraway (6)
6 See red run in washing Santa's drawers? (9)
7 Composition features little kid performing as Pikachu, say (7)
8 Comfortable seats in his car (7,6)
14 Pilot scheme (9)
16 One French woman sings and strips (7)
18 Trendy father has power to impress (7)
19 Say, "grow up"? That's mean (7)
20 English horse gets lead in movie - Black Beauty perhaps (6)
23 Note awful pants oddly selected (1,4)

SUDOKU

			2	1	7	6		
			5		4			7
			9	8		3		1
2						7		6
	5	3				9	1	
4		6						3
1		5		2	9			
6			1		8			
		8	6	4	5			

No.SS5661 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

U	O	Y	E	V	O	L	I	
R	A	C	H	A	E	L	O	B
V	I	O	U	S	N	T	R	E
L	E	C	I	S	P	A	I	N
C	A	T	E	R	W	A	U	L
D	T	V	D	R	E	A	M	E
R	A	D	O	R	I	N	G	O
A	I	R	O	R	N	E	E	D
Y	C	I	A	D	A	N	T	E
N	A	B	A	E	A	L	C	O
H	O	L	I	N	D	U	C	E
D	O	E	A	A	C	O	M	P
A	N	I	O	N	T	E	N	E
T	E	I	R	E	S	H	O	E
D	A	U	N	T	E	D	E	X
A	M	P	L	E	I	M	H	S
A	R	Y	M					

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	8	3	2	1	4	9	7	5
9	2	1	8	7	5	6	4	3
5	4	7	9	3	6	8	1	2
7	1	9	3	4	2	5	6	8
3	6	2	1	5	8	4	9	7
8	5	4	7	6	9	2	3	1
4	7	5	6	8	3	1	2	9
2	3	6	5	9	1	7	8	4
1	9	8	4	2	7	3	5	6

FAITH

Brahma realises his folly

Vedanta Desika, in his Mei Virata Manmiyam, a Tamil work in praise of Lord Varadaraja of Kanchi, says devotees should sing His praises, for Varadaraja is the Supreme One, who alone can give us moksha. Once we surrender to Him, there is nothing more we need to do, elaborated T.N. Aravamudachariar, in a discourse. That very act of surrender is a guarantee of moksha, for the Lord, who is the embodiment of mercy, expects nothing more from us.

In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna talks about the kind of people He likes. He who is kind to all living things, he who is without pride and ego, he who is kind to all, he who is indifferent to joyful and sorrowful events and remains unaffected by either of them, he who is patient, who is single-minded in his bhakti, and who surrenders his mind and heart to the Lord – such a person becomes dear to Me, declares Krishna. Brahma became proud of his role as creator, and began to think of himself as equal to Lord Narayana. His pride kept him from seeing the Lord, although he tried hard to see Him. Brahma was like a child, who asked for the Moon. As impossible as a child's desire was Brahma's attempt to reach Him.

Brahma was anguished that he was unable to see the Lord. He thought of why he was in such a pitiable condition. He realised that he was to blame for it. His mind had wandered away from right path. He thought that Brahma loka was his permanent kingdom. It was that ego which led to his miserable plight. Brahma wept when he realised his folly. He decided to do penance to atone for his mistakes and to see Lord Narayana. He had to find a suitable place for penance and he zeroed in on Kanchipuram.

TAIPEI

China sends 71 warplanes, 7 ships toward Taiwan in 24 hours

AP

China's military sent 71 planes and seven ships toward Taiwan in a 24-hour display of force directed at the island, Taiwan's Defence Ministry said on Monday, after China expressed anger at Taiwan-related provisions in a U.S. annual defence spending Bill passed on Saturday. AP

SEOUL

South Korea launches jets, fires shots after North flies drones

AP

South Korea's military fired warning shots, scrambled fighter jets and flew surveillance assets across the heavily fortified border with North Korea on Monday, after North Korean drones violated its airspace for the first time in five years in a fresh escalation of tensions. AP

TOKYO

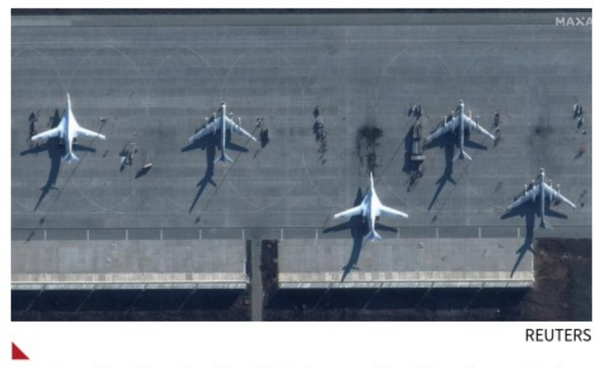
17 killed in days of heavy snow across large parts of Japan

AP

A man shovels off snow around a car in Kitami city. Heavy snowfall across large parts of Japan has killed 17 people over the past 10 days, with thousands of homes suffering power outages, officials said on Monday. Much of the country's west coast as well as the northern region of Hokkaido have seen persistent heavy snow. AFP

ENGELS

Russia accuses Ukraine of deadly drone attack on bomber base



REUTERS

Russia said on Monday it had foiled a new Ukrainian drone attack on a strategic bomber military base hundreds of kilometres from their joint border, as Kyiv called for Moscow's ouster from the UN. Russia said it had downed the drone at Engels. Three servicemen were killed by falling debris, regional authorities said. AFP

More NGOs halt work in Afghanistan after ban on women staff

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Christian Aid and ActionAid on Monday became the latest foreign aid groups to suspend operations in Afghanistan after the country's Taliban rulers ordered all NGOs to stop women staff from working.

Announcements by the two groups take to six the number of bodies who have paused their operations in the country.

Christian Aid was "rapidly seeking clarity... and urging the authorities to reverse the ban", head of global programmes Ray Hasan said in a statement.

"Whilst we do this, we are unfortunately pausing the work of our programmes," he added.

ActionAid said that if women were banned from working with the group it would "prevent us from reaching out to half of the population that are already reeling from hunger".

"ActionAid has made the difficult decision to temporarily halt most of its programmes in Afghanistan until a clearer picture emerges," it said.

On Sunday, Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council and CARE all announced they were putting their operations on hold. The International Rescue Committee, which provides emergency response in health, education and other areas and employs 3,000 women across Afghanistan, also said it was suspending services.

Prachanda sworn in as Nepal PM, faces tough task of running alliance

By appearing in *durbari* dress, the PM is probably stating that he is not as ideologically moored to his Maoist past as in 2008-09 or 2016 but it remains to be seen how he will deal with Oli

NEWS ANALYSIS

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Change of guard: Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' taking oath as the new Prime Minister of Nepal in Kathmandu on Monday. REUTERS

Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal at a ceremony on Monday in capital Kathmandu. As the event got under way, the image that came out strongly was that both Mr. Prachanda, a former Maoist rebel leader, and outgoing Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba were dressed in *daura-suruwal*, the attire of the traditional power elite.

Mr. Prachanda had in the past avoided it and preferred a western jacket. Speculation has begun over if the choice of *daura-suruwal* indicates an evolution in Mr. Prachanda's ideological journey.

The presence of Mr. Deuba gave the impression of a cordial handover of power, but in reality it is the sudden re-emergence of friendship between former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and Mr. Prachanda that has surprised even the Nepali Congress.

It is being said the Nepali Congress was negotiating with Mr. Prachanda for sharing of power in the firm belief that ties between Mr. Oli and Mr. Prachanda were bitter beyond repair. Mr. Oli and Mr. Prachanda had teamed up to win the election in 2017, the first one conducted according to the 2015 Constitution. After the election, the CPN-UML of Mr. Oli and the CPN (Maoist Centre) merged and formed the Nepal Communist Party. The unity in party however did not translate in consultative decision-making by Mr. Oli. Angered by this, Mr. Prachanda began to agitate and mobilised the Standing Committee of the Nepal Communist Party, which ultimately forced Mr. Oli to dissolve the Cabinet in December 2020.

Mr. Prachanda, however, did join hands with Mr. Oli earlier that year to put up a joint front on the Kalapani dispute that erupted between Nepal and India after the latter published a new political map that showed the region of Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura as part of sovereign Indian territory.

Tension between duo

Ground reports suggest that the Nepali Congress was led to believe that Mr. Prachanda was unable to forgive Mr. Oli for his excesses during the last time the two came together in 2017-19. He, however, proved that in 2022, he does not have any of the scruples that made him pick up fights in 2008.

That year, Mr. Prachanda had emerged as the Prime Minister after months of negotiations with the Girija Prasad Koirala-led Nepali Congress. It was a dramatic entry by the former Maoist rebel who was better known by his nom de guerre "Prachanda", the fierce one. He chose Beijing for his first official foreign trip, sending shockwaves in the "southern neighbour".

But India had old ties with Mr. Prachanda as he had spent most of his career prior to 2007-08 underground or in exile in India as he fought the forces of the King.

Mr. Prachanda's real test lies ahead, as the seven-party coalition that dramatically announced him as the Prime Minister consists of new parties such as the Rashtriya Swatantra Party led by Ravi Lamichhane who had promised to take on corrupt Leftist leaders. By appearing in Nepal's *durbari* dress and by joining hands with the pro-monarchy Rashtriya Prajatantra Party, Mr. Prachanda is probably sending a message that he is not as ideologically moored to his Maoist past as in 2008-09 or 2016 but it remains to be seen how he will deal with Mr. Oli. With the Nepali Congress out of the way, his real challenge will be now to ensure peaceful coexistence with the alliance partners that includes former secessionist leader C.K. Raut.

Xi urges officials to take steps to 'protect' lives as China battles COVID wave

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Emergency guide: A health worker giving instructions to an elderly woman as China sees significant rise in COVID-19 cases. REUTERS

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged officials on Monday to take steps to protect lives in his first public remarks on COVID-19 since Beijing dramatically loosened hard-line containment measures this month.

Having mostly cut itself off from the rest of the world during the pandemic, China is now experiencing the planet's biggest surge in infections after abruptly lifting restrictions that torpedoed the economy.

Grim estimates

Studies have estimated that around one million people could die over the next few months. Many in the population are now grappling with shortages of medicine, while emergency medical facilities are strained by an influx of undervaccinated elderly patients.

"At present, COVID-19 prevention and control in China are facing a new situation and new tasks," Mr. Xi said in a directive, according to state broadcaster CCTV. "We should launch the patriotic health campaign in a more targeted way... fortify a community line of defence for epidemic prevention and control, and effectively protect people's lives, safety and health," Mr. Xi said.

Hospitals and crematoriums across the country have been overflowing with COVID-19 patients and victims, while China's National Health Commission on Sunday announced it would stop publishing daily nationwide infection and death statistics.

Mr. Xi's comments came as China on Monday said it would scrap mandatory quarantine on arrival, further unwinding years of strict virus controls.

Since March 2020, all passengers arriving in China have had to undergo mandatory centralised quarantine. This decreased from three weeks to one week this summer, and to five days last month.

But under new rules that will take effect on January 8, when COVID-19 will be downgraded to a Class B infectious disease from Class A, they will no longer need to.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383
website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-36/16401/2022-23 Date: 26.12.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under one cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Class-II & above (Electrical) Contractors registered in KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below.

Sl. No	Name of the Work	Category
1	2	3
1	Repair, Reconditioning, Operation & Maintenance of Streetlights on annual contract system at Kumbalagudu Industrial Area 1st & 2nd phase, Bengaluru District.	SC
2	Repair, Reconditioning, Operation & Maintenance of Streetlights on annual contract system at Gowribidanuru Industrial Area, 1st & 2nd Phase in Chikkaballapura District.	Others
3	Repair, Reconditioning, Operation & Maintenance of Streetlights on annual contract system at Attibele & Veerasandra Industrial Areas in Bengaluru District.	Others
4	Repair, Reconditioning, Operation & Maintenance of Streetlights on annual contract system at Adakanahalli Industrial Area, Nanjanagudu Taluk & Badanguppe-Kellamballi Industrial Area, Chamrajnagara District of Mysuru Zone.	SC
5	Repair, Reconditioning, Operation & Maintenance of Streetlights on annual contract system at Narasapura Industrial Area & Jakkasandra Industrial Area, Kolar District.	Others
6	Repair, Reconditioning, Operation & Maintenance of Streetlights on annual contract system at Thandya 2nd Phase, Womens Park 1st Phase & Immavu Industrial Areas of Mysuru Zone.	ST
7	Repair, Reconditioning, Operation & Maintenance of Streetlights on annual contract system at Kadakola & Thandya Industrial Area, Nanjanagudu Taluk, Mysuru District.	Others
8	Replacement of control panel board, starrer panels and connected accessories of 250HP & 30HP turbine pumpsets at Mallanamoole pumphouse, Nanjanagudu Taluk, Mysuru Zone.	Others

Last date for submission of bids is: **11.01.2023 upto 04:00 pm**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

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48 killed as massive winter storm wallops much of U.S.

Associated Press
BUFFALO

Stormy day: Vehicles left stranded on the road after the winter storm hit the Buffalo region in New York. REUTERS

The death toll from a pre-Christmas blizzard that paralysed the Buffalo area and much of the country has risen to 27 in western New York, authorities said on Monday as the region dug out from one of the worst weather-related disasters in its history.

The dead have been found in their cars, homes and in snowbanks. Some died while shovelling snow. The storm that walloped much of the country is now blamed for at least 48 deaths nationwide, with rescue and recovery efforts continuing on Monday.

The blizzard roared through western New York on Friday and Saturday, stranding motorists, knocking out power and preventing emergency crews from reaching residents in frigid homes and stuck cars. Huge snowdrifts nearly covered cars on Monday and there were thousands of houses, some adorned in unlit holiday displays, that have been dark from a lack of power.

The massive storm, dubbed the Elliott, is expected to claim more lives because it trapped some residents inside houses and knocked out power to tens of thousands of homes and businesses.

Extreme weather stretched from the Great Lakes near Canada to the Rio Grande along the border with Mexico. About 60% of the U.S. population faced some sort of winter weather advisory or warning, and temperatures plummeted drastically below normal from east of the Rocky Mountains to the Appalachians.

The National Weather Service said on Sunday the frigid arctic air "enveloping much of the eastern half of the U.S." would move away slowly.

Ukraine aims for Feb. peace meet at United Nations, says Minister

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine's Foreign Minister on Monday said his government was aiming to have a peace summit by the end of February, preferably at the United Nations with Secretary-General António Guterres as a possible mediator, around the anniversary of Russia's war.

But Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told The Associated Press that Russia could only be invited to such a summit if the country faced a war crimes tribunal first.

Mr. Kuleba said he was "absolutely satisfied" with the results of President Volodymyr Zelensky's visit to the U.S. last week, and revealed that the U.S. government had made a special plan to get the Patriot missile battery ready to be operational in the country in less than six months. Usually, the training takes up to a year.

Mr. Kuleba said Ukraine would do whatever it can to win the war in 2023, adding that diplomacy always played an important role.

"Every war ends in a diplomatic way," he said. "Every war ends as a result of the actions taken on the battlefield and at the negotiating table."

Mr. Kuleba said the Ukrainian government would like to have a peace summit by the end of February.

"The United Nations could be the best venue for holding this summit, because this is not about making a favour to a certain country," he said. "This is really about bringing everyone on board."

On December 12, Mr. Zelensky said that Ukraine planned to initiate a summit to implement the Ukrainian peace formula in 2023.

INBRIEF

LICHF raises lending rate by 0.35%, home loans to cost 8.65%

LIC Housing Finance raised its lending rate by 0.35%. The move, which comes a week after a raise by bigger rival HDFC by a similar quantum, entails that the minimum rate of interest will get revised to 8.65% for the best-rated borrower. "The increase in rates is in tune with the market conditions," the company's managing director and chief executive Y. Viswanatha Gowd said. He added that there is good sustenance in the home-buying activity at present. PTI

Kirloskar's daughter Manasi joins board of Kirloskar firms

Kirloskar Systems (KSPL) has appointed Manasi Tata as director on the board of its joint-venture firms, including Toyota Industries Engine India Pvt. Ltd., Kirloskar Toyota Textile Machinery Pvt. Ltd., Toyota Material Handling India Pvt. Ltd. and Denso Kirloskar Industries Pvt. Ltd. The appointment follows the demise of her father Vikram S. Kirloskar. Ms. Tata, a graduate from the Rhode Island School of Design in the U.S., is trained in Toyota manufacturing processes and the Japanese work culture.

Hetero's COVID-19 oral drug gets WHO prequalification

Pharmaceutical company Hetero on Monday said it had received World Health Organization Prequalification of Medicines Programme (WHO PQ) approval for its generic version of COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment candidate nirmatrelvir. Nirmatrelvir, which originated in Pfizer, is co-packaged with ritonavir tablets as Pfizer's COVID-19 oral antiviral drug Paxlovid. This is the first prequalification for a generic version of Paxlovid, Hetero said.

Unfunded pension scheme is a tax on future generations, says Sanyal

Revival of old pension scheme by some States reverses recent pension reforms says member of PM's EAC; economist sees 2023 as a difficult period given current stress in global economy, urges vigilance over prospect of resurgence of COVID-19

PressTrust of India
NEW DELHI

Concerned over revival of the Old Pension Scheme by certain Opposition-ruled States, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) member Sanjeev Sanyal on Monday said unfunded pension schemes are ultimately a tax on future generations.

Mr. Sanyal further said given the current stress in the global economy and the repeated downgrades done to world GDP growth numbers by international agencies, it was quite obvious that 2023 would also be a difficult period.

Word of caution

Some Opposition-ruled States have opted to revert to the Old Pension Scheme spurring concern about the fiscal implications

- The OPS, under which entire pension amount was given by government, was discontinued by the NDA government from April 1, 2004
- Under the New Pension Scheme, employees contribute 10% of their basic salary while State government contributes 14%

- India needs to continuously monitor inflation, current account given global challenges

"It should be very clear that unfunded pension schemes are ultimately tax on future generations. Therefore, one should be very, very careful to reverse pension reforms that have been done with great difficulty over the last couple of decades," he told PTI.

Mr. Sanyal was responding to a question on some Opposition-ruled States' decision to switch to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

The OPS, under which the entire pension amount was given by the government, was discontinued by the NDA government in 2003 from April 1, 2004.

On overall macroeconomic situation, he opined that apart from the problems in eastern Europe, a sharp surge in COVID cases in China will possibly have spillovers on rest of the world's economic growth.

According to him, India needs to be vigilant about the prospect of resurgence of COVID-19.

"There are macroeconomic stability issues that we need to be continuously monitoring particularly in the area of inflation and also in the case of current account given that our export markets are all slowing down," he opined.

'Barring pandemic, GFC, 2023 may witness slowest global growth this millenium'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Barring the pandemic and global financial crisis, 2023 may mark the slowest global growth since the millennium began, wrote Tata Sons' chairman N. Chandrasekaran in his annual letter to group employees.

"We will need to keep a careful watch on commodity prices, in particular," he cautioned.

"That said, next year we are likely to see inflation gradually moderate. India is well positioned, and we will continue to be the fastest-growing major economy supported by increasing consumption, consumer confidence and investment," he added.

N. Chandrasekaran

He said the slowing global growth might act as a drag, but India's rising share of global manufacturing should provide some buffer/insulation.

He said though the group had experienced significant milestones during the year, including 'the welcoming of Air India back to the Group and five lakh Tata Motors cars sold in a calendar year, with electric cars accounting for 10%,' the global environment had several risk factors, including the energy crisis in Europe and the battle to contain inflation.

Shares snap four-day losing streak; Nifty 50 back above 18,000

Reuters
BENGALURU

Indian shares rose for the first time in five days in a low-volume session on Monday, with the benchmark Nifty 50 reclaiming the key 18,000 level, as risk assets were boosted after mixed U.S. data bolstered bets of smaller Federal Reserve rate increases.

The Nifty 50 index rose 1.17% to 18,014.60, and the S&P BSE Sensex gained 1.2% to 60,566.42, marking their biggest daily gain since Nov. 24.

The Nifty fell 3.3% in the previous four sessions, slipping below the 18,000 mark on Friday.

"I expect the markets to recover sharply as the punishment meted out on Thursday and Friday was unwarranted," said G. Chokkalingam, founder and head of research at Equinomics Research and Advisory.

Data on Friday showed U.S. personal income rose more than expected last month, while consumer spending barely rose and inflation cooled further, rekindling bets of smaller rate increases by the Fed.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,566	1.20
US Dollar	82.65	0.21
Gold	54,721	-0.24

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3716.75	74.55
Adani Ports	806.05	11.95
Apollo Hosp	4684.05	-16.10
Asian Paints	3056.05	-1.85
Axis Bank	928.70	22.10
Bajaj Auto	3552.20	10.40
Bajaj Finserv	1535.00	37.95
Bajaj Finance	6433.70	59.10
Bharti Airtel	811.00	2.35
BPCL	325.10	0.00
Britannia Ind	4375.35	43.45
Cipla	1096.50	-22.65
Coal India	220.75	5.70
Divis Lab	3428.80	-69.65
Dr Reddys Lab	4248.60	-61.85
Eicher Motors	3161.25	47.60
Grasim Ind	1729.05	19.95
HCL Tech	1031.70	1.10
HDFC	2665.10	42.05
HDFC Bank	1629.45	31.80
HDFC Life	569.30	3.85
Hero MotoCorp	2686.30	49.45
Hindalco	442.95	13.40
Hind Unilever	2617.45	-3.65
ICICI Bank	893.20	14.30
IndusInd Bank	1195.70	47.85
Infosys	1502.40	5.30
ITC	334.60	7.90
JSW Steel	732.20	4.35
Kotak Bank	1813.55	-8.40
L&T	2091.05	28.30
M&M	1237.05	12.45
Maruti Suzuki	8256.80	115.20
NestleIndia	19897.50	-235.25
NTPC	165.65	2.65
ONGC	141.30	1.50
PowerGrid Corp	211.85	0.60
Reliance Ind	2524.05	21.85
SBI Life	1243.30	18.70
State Bank	597.10	23.10
Sun Pharma	1000.05	-1.50
TataConsumerProduct	775.30	-3.70
Tata Motors	384.80	6.45
Tata Steel	105.00	2.75
TCS	3252.90	24.55
Tech Mahindra	1001.00	5.25
Titan	2481.10	-1.95
UltraTech Cement	7074.00	164.60
UPL	718.25	7.05
Wipro	380.50	2.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.45	82.77
Euro	87.59	87.96
British Pound	99.52	99.97
Japanese Yen (100)	61.91	62.17
Chinese Yuan	11.82	11.87
Swiss Franc	88.42	88.86
Singapore Dollar	61.05	61.34
Canadian Dollar	60.62	60.90
Malaysian Ringitt	18.63	18.72
Australian Dollar	55.38	55.68

Source:Indian Bank

SEBI attaches bank, demat accounts of Sahara firm

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

SEBI on Monday ordered the attachment of bank and demat accounts of a Sahara Group firm, its chief Subrata Roy and others to recover ₹6.42 crore for violating regulatory norms in the issuance of optionally fully convertible debentures (OFCDs).

The case relates to the issue of OFCDs by Sahara India Real Estate Corporation and Sahara Housing Investment Corporation during 2008-09. They raised the money without following the procedures intended to protect the interest of the investors, prescribed under the norms, as per the SEBI order.

Interest in G-sec market rising: FinMin

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The share of Central govt. securities' in traded volumes climbed to 82% in Q2 from 76% in Q1

Trading volumes in government securities (g-secs) hit a two-year high of ₹27.67 lakh crore in the July to September quarter (Q2 of 2022-23), rising 8.64% from Q1, with the Finance Ministry terming this a sign of growing market interest in such bonds.

"The higher trading volume in Q2 of 2022-23 in comparison to previous quarter shows the growing interest of market players/traders in government security market," the Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry emphasised in the July-September Public Debt Management report.

The share of Central government securities' in traded volumes jumped to 82% in Q2 from 76% in Q1, while transactions in State bonds dipped from 8% in Q1 to just 5% between July and September, marking their lowest share in at least five quarters.

Amounting to little more than ₹22.67 lakh crore, Central government securities transactions were close to levels last seen in the July-September 2020 period. In terms of ownership, Government of India bonds owned by the RBI fell to a two-year low of 15.3% in Q2.

'India workers demand more flexibility in working lives'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A significant percentage of employees are demanding more flexibility in their working lives, and they are prepared to make compromises to get it, according to a report.

As per the ADP Research Institute's People at Work 2022: A Global Workforce View, which surveyed almost 33,000 workers across 17 countries, more than 7 in 10 want more flexibility in structuring their working time.

In India, 76.075% workers would take a pay cut to guarantee the flexibility of working remotely or have the scope to alternate between home and office.

PE firm Advent to buy 50.1% of Suven Pharma for ₹6,313-cr.

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Post acquisition, Advent intends to explore merger of Suven Pharma with Cohance Lifesciences

Global private equity major Advent International has agreed to acquire 50.10% stake in Suven Pharmaceuticals from the promoter Jasti family.

Under the share purchase agreement, Advent would acquire the stake in the contract development and manufacturing firm at ₹495 per equity share, Advent said on the more than ₹6,313-crore transaction.

As required by norms, Advent has also announced plans to make an open offer to acquire an additional 26%, or over 6.61 crore equity shares, from public shareholders.

Advent may explore Suven's merger with a portfolio firm Cohance Lifesciences to build an end-to-end CDMO and merchant API player servicing pharma and specialty chemicals markets.

Yezdi trademark is owned by Ideal Jawa, liquidator can sell: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has restrained Boman R. Irani of Rustomjee Group, Classic Legends Pvt. Ltd., Mahindra & Mahindra, and others from using the trademark 'Yezdi' or any other mark containing the word 'Yezdi' as a word or a device, whether independently or in conjunction with other words, including all domain names which use 'Yezdi'.

Declaring that Ideal Jawa (India) Ltd., which is under liquidation, is the owner of 'Yezdi' (word and device), the Court said that the trademarks of the company remain in *custodia legis* of the Court as it is dealing with the liquidation proceedings, initiated in 1991 through the Official Liquidator (OL).

Voiding all trademark registration certificates issued by Registrar of Trademarks, Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad in favour of Mr. Irani, the court directed the Trademark Registration Authority to transfer all registrations to Ideal Jawa through the OL, adding the OL could auction it.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I RAMA Shankar Prasad Singh dependent of Vimlendu Kumar resident of 74/2, Akash Vihar AF Camp, Marathahalli, Bangalore–560037 have changed my name from Rama Shankar Prasad Singh to Rama Shankar Singh vide affidavit dated 20 Dec 22 sworn before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, A.SAIDA Bagum, Spouse of No.JC-104703N, Rank Sub & Hony.Lt. Name: Abdul Rahiman, residing at No.554, Parandahalli Extension, Near Sanis-waran Temple, Robertsonpet, KGF 563122, from A.Saida Bagum to Sahida Begaum and my date of birth change from 1959 to 25.12.1960 vide affidavit dated 23.12.2022 before N.Srinivas, Advocate and Notary, KGF Court Complex, KGF.

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Mobile : 73495 98454
SUKHI ARCADE, 175, Chickpet Main Road, Bangalore - 560 053.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 28th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT MAYOHALL, BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. NO. 25438/2020
Between
ICICI Bank Limited having its Registered Office at ICICI Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007 and its Branch Office at Mythri Centre, No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
And
S. Sharavana ...Defendant
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mr. S. Sharavana,
Aged about 42 years, D/o. Satish Chinnadorni R/a:4, Ground Floor, 8th Main, 8th Cross, Brindavan Nagar, Mathikere, Bangalore- 560054
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs.3,07,748.06/- as on 07/01/2020 along with irterest at 12.99% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear Before the 28th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore [CCH 29] in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on 16/02/2023 at 11 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this 17 day of December, 2022.
By Order of theCourt
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall Unit, Bangalore
Advocate For Plaintiff
Shiva & Co. Advocates,
No.109, Commerce House,
9/1, Cunningham Road,
Bangalore- 560052

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PALLAVI Donni R/at 1398, 11th Cross, 2nd stage, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore 560060 have changed my son's name from Abhimann to Abhimann Donni vide affidavit 17-12-2022 before notary Ravi, Bangalore-40

I, DAYALAN Natarajan R/o 204 Hampshire Downs Dr Morrisville NC USA 27560 have changed my minor son's name from Mughilan to Mughilan Dayalan vide affidavit dated 24th Dec 2022 sworn before Notary Shiva GeeReddy Wake County, NC, USA for all purposes.

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Tenders are invited from reputed firms experienced in conducting online tests in cities across the country. Tender documents and tender schedule may be downloaded free of cost from the e-GP Website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
Tender Publishing date: 27.12.2022, Clarification Meeting with Bidders: 04.01.2023, Bid sub mission starting on: 05.01.2023, Last date for bid submission: 18.01.2023
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HONOURING A LEGEND

Top Australian Test award named after Shane Warne

Australia's men's Test Player-of-the-Year award will be renamed in Shane Warne's honour. A stand at the venue has already been named in his honour at the MCG. The Shane Warne award will be presented annually, second only to the prestigious Allan Border Medal for the most outstanding player across all formats.

TAKING A DIG

Over-thinker is a perception that has followed me: Ashwin

R. Ashwin took a dig at those who perceive him as an "over-thinker". "Overthinking is a perception that has followed me ever since I wore the Indian jersey with pride. I have pondered about it for a while now and believe I should have seriously considered a PR exercise to erase that word out of peoples minds," he tweeted.

BOLD STROKE

Stokes urges ICC to do 'something different' to popularise Test cricket

England Test captain Ben Stokes has hit out at the ICC for not paying enough attention to scheduling of the longest format of the game. "A great example is England's one-day series against Australia after the T20 World Cup. That was shoving three games in there. It made sense to someone to schedule a series which meant nothing."

STAYING GROUNDED

Big pay cheque won't change me or my cricket: Cameron Green

Cameron Green, who was bought by Mumbai Indians for ₹17.5 crore, said the big purse will not change him or the way he plays his cricket. "I just put my name into the auction, and it just happened. It doesn't change who I am, how I think and all the confidence I have in my cricket. Hopefully, I also didn't change much."

Green's five-for sees South Africa capitulate, Aussies in control

Cummins' surprising decision to field pays off as the Proteas struggle again against the hosts' bowling firepower; Verreynne and Jansen stage a stirring fightback with a gutsy 112-run stand

SA IN AUSTRALIA

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Cameron Green celebrated landing one of the richest contracts in Indian Premier League history by taking a career-best five for 27 as Australia ripped through South Africa's fragile batting in the second Test here on Monday.

After the visitors were dismissed for 189, an aggressive David Warner, in his 100th Test, was unbeaten on 32 and Marnus Labuschagne was not out on five to steer the hosts to 45 for one at stumps on day one.

Usman Khawaja was out for one, caught behind by Kyle Verreynne off Kagiso Rabada.

Australia won the first of three Tests by six wickets inside two days on a hostile and green Gabba pitch in Brisbane last week. The deck at the Melbourne Cricket Ground was less bowler-friendly, but captain Pat Cummins surprisingly chose to field at a venue where toss-winning teams normally bat first.

In disarray: Ngidi becomes Green's fifth victim of the innings. AFP

It proved to be an inspired decision in front of 64,876 fans with the Proteas losing early wickets as they again struggled against the hosts' bowling firepower.

After slumping to 67 for five, Verreynne and Marco Jansen launched a stirring fightback in a gutsy 112-run stand.

But then Green – the second-most expensive buy at the IPL auction last week behind England's Sam Curran – went on a blitz, snapping the partnership when Verreynne got an outside edge on 52 that Steve Smith collected.

Two balls later, Jansen was gone, caught by wicketkeeper Alex Carey for 59 off Green before the giant Australian bowled Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi. Green took four for eight in the spell with the Proteas losing their last five wickets for 10 runs.

South Africa's batting has been under the pump recently and Dean Elgar knew he had to stick around. But it was a grind, with the captain surviving when an inside edge off Scott Boland sent the ball rolling onto his stumps only for the bails to stay on, then being dropped by Nathan Lyon.

Disaster then struck with Elgar needlessly run out by Labuschagne going for a single on 26.

The scores: South Africa 189 in 68.4 overs (Dean Elgar 26, Kyle Verreynne 52, Marco Jansen 59, Cameron Green 5/27) vs Australia 45/1 (David Warner 32 batting).
Toss: Australia.

Babar, Sarfaraz come to Pakistan's rescue in first Test

NZ IN PAKISTAN

Associated Press
KARACHI

Babar Azam hit his ninth hundred and Sarfaraz Ahmed returned to Test cricket after nearly four years with an impressive 86 as Pakistan overcame a top-order collapse to reach 317 for five against New Zealand on Monday in the first Test.

Babar was not out on 161 with 16 fours and a six and Sarfaraz – playing his first Test since January 2019 – grinded well to give Pakistan an early advantage on a slow and dry wicket.

They shared a 196-run stand to lift Pakistan from 110 for four before Ajaz Patel (two for 91) broke through late in the final session had Sarfaraz caught in the slip with the second new ball.

Both Babar and Sarfaraz dominated the three spinners and were untroubled against the seam bowling of captain Tim Southee and Neil Wagner.

Daryl Mitchel dropped a regulation catch when Babar was on 12 as the Pakistan skipper raised his hundred before tea off 161 balls with a six off Michael Bracewell (two for 61) over mid-wicket.

Prolific: Skipper Babar Azam led from the front to register an unbeaten 161. AFP

Babar could have been run out in the first over after lunch but Devon Conway couldn't hit the stumps at the non-striker's end with the Pakistan captain way out of his crease when Sarfaraz refused to go for a quick single.

Sarfaraz had to wait for 26 Test matches before finally breaking into the XI after Pakistan rested Mohammad Rizwan.

The scores: Pakistan 317/5 in 90 overs (Babar Azam (batting) 161, Sarfaraz Ahmed 86.

Toss: Pakistan.

Kane sparks Spurs' fightback in draw at Brentford

On target: Kane, right, scores Tottenham's first goal against Brentford. REUTERS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Reuters
LONDON

Harry Kane shook off his World Cup disappointment to kindle a Tottenham Hotspur revival in an entertaining 2-2 draw at Brentford on Monday as the Premier League roared back to life.

Forty four days after the League shut down for the first mid-season World Cup, all eyes were on those players involved in Qatar and especially Kane.

An early goal by Vitaly Janelt and Ivan Toney's close-range strike shortly after the interval put Brentford 2-0 up as Tottenham struggled to deal with its host. But Antonio Conte's side has made a habit of playing its best football when trailing and so it proved again.

Kane, whose missed penalty just over a fortnight ago condemned England to a quarterfinal defeat by France, headed home in the 65th minute to give his side a lifeline.

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, one of five Tottenham starters who featured at the World Cup, levelled with a calm finish.

Conte's side has now earned 13 points from losing positions this season, the most in the League.

Newcastle second

Later, Newcastle United attacker Joelinton won a penalty, converted by Chris Wood, and netted a first-half header in a 3-0 thrashing of Leicester City that took his side up to second in the table on Monday.

Newcastle climbed above Manchester City, who play Leeds United on Wednesday, into second place on 33 points.

The results:

Brentford 2 (Janelt 15, Toney 54) drew with Tottenham 2 (Kane 65, Hojbjerg 71).

Crystal Palace 0 lost to Fulham 3 (De Cordova-Reid 31, Ream 71, Mitrovic 80).

Everton 1 (Mina 7) lost to Wolves 2 (Podence 22, Ait-Nouri 90+5).

Leicester 0 lost to Newcastle 3 (Wood 3-pen, Almiron 7, Joelinton 32).

Southampton 1 (Ward-Prowse 73) lost to Brighton 3 (Lallana 14, Perraud 35-og, March 56).

Poonam gets the better of Simranjit in 60kg final

NATIONAL BOXING

Sports Bureau

Poonam handed World championships bronze medallist Simranjit Kaur a shock defeat to emerge as the champion in 60kg on the concluding day of the National women's boxing championships in Bhopal on Monday.

Railways pugilist Poonam, who won the National Games gold medal in 57kg, beat Olympian Simranjit 4-3 in the final following a review of the bout.

In a closely-fought bout, Poonam displayed much better performance than her earlier showings to keep the experienced Simranjit at bay.

Manju stuns Ankushita

In another close contest, local favourite Manju Bamboria upset Asian bronze medallist Ankushita Boro 4-1 to take the 66kg crown. Manju dominated the duel as Ankushita could not play her natural counterattacks.

Nikhat Zareen, a World champion in 52kg, saw off Anamika's challenge 4-1 to secure the gold medal in 50kg.

After the Commonwealth Games, this was Nikhat's second gold in the new weight class.

Tastes sweet! Nikhat and Lovlina celebrate after winning the gold in the 50kg and 75kg categories respectively. A.M. FARUQUI

Olympic bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain's controlled approach and fine execution of plans helped her beat World youth champion Arundhati Chaudhary 5-0 in the 75kg final.

Award for Sakshi

Sakshi Chaudhary, the 52kg champion, was adjudged the 'Best Boxer,' while Anamika (50kg) was named the 'Most Promising Boxer.'

Railways, with 10 medals, retained the team title.

The results (finals):

48kg: Manju Rani (RSPB) bt S. Kalaivani (TN) 5-0.
50kg: Nikhat Zareen (Tel) bt Anamika (RSPB) 4-1.
52kg: Sakshi Chaudhary (SSCB) bt Jyoti Gulia (RSPB) 5-0.
54kg: Shiksha (RSPB) bt Sunita (HP) 5-0.
57kg: Manisha Moun (Har) Vinakshi (HP) 5-0.
60kg: Poonam (RSPB) bt Simranjit Kaur (Pun) 4-3.
63kg: Shashi Chopra (RSPB) bt Mahi Lamba (MP) 5-0.
66kg: Manju Bamboria (MP) bt Ankushita Boro (Asm) 4-1.
70kg: Sanamacha Chanu (Man) bt Shruti Yadav (MP) 3-2.
75kg: Lovlina Borgohain (Asm) bt Arundhati Chaudhary (SSCB) 5-0.
81kg: Saweety Boora (Har) bt Anupama (RSPB) 5-0.
+81kg: Nupur (RSPB) bt Monika (AIP) 4-1.

Abhijeet opens half-point lead; Four share second spot

NATIONAL CHESS

Top seed S.P. Sethuraman stayed half a point behind Abhijeet (5 points) after nailing Deep Sengupta in 51 moves

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Abhijeet Gupta punished an overly passive Koustav Chatterjee in 32 moves to emerge as the leader after five rounds of MPL National chess championship here on Monday.

Sustained pressure

On a day when the seven of the top eight boards witnessed decisive battles, Abhijeet's sustained pressure saw Koustav resign after facing the loss of a knight in this battle of two overnight leaders.

Top seed S.P. Sethuraman stayed half a point behind Abhijeet (5 points) after nailing Deep Sengupta in 51 moves, in a rook-and-pawn endgame. N.R. Visakh, Aronyak Ghosh and Mitrabha Guha were also at 4.5 points.

Fifth seed Visakh ended the unbeaten run and the valiant resistance of Vedant Panesar in 83 moves. Similarly, Aronyak played to his massive rating superiority over Mohammad Nubairshah Shaikh to win in 54 moves.

Seasoned campaigner Neeloptal Das resigned in 49 moves against fellow-Grandmaster Mitrabha after failing to find a way to stop the youngster's queening pawn.

Creditable draw

Young Kushagra Mohan was not intimidated by GM P. Iniyan and walked away with a creditable draw in 79 moves.

In fact, it was Kushagra who searched for an unlikely victory for the last 27 moves after the last pawn-capture, although his rook did not prove superior to Iniyan's dark-squared bishop.

Leading results (fifth round):
Abhijeet Gupta (5) bt Koustav Chatterjee (4); S.P. Sethuraman (4.5) bt Deep Sengupta (3.5); N. R. Visakh (4.5) bt Vedant Panesar (3.5); Aronyak Ghosh (4.5) bt Mohammad Nubairshah Shaikh (3.5); Kushagra Mohan (4) drew with P. Iniyan (4).
Neelotpal Das (3.5) lost to Mitrabha Guha (4.5); Sriram Jha (3) lost to Leon Mendonca (4); Utkal Ranjan Sahoo (4) bt M. Shyam Sundar (3); Soham Kamotra (3.5) drew with Karthik Venkataraman (3.5); P. Shyaamnikhil (3.5) drew with P. Karthikeyan (3.5).

INBRIEF

Struggling Wolves sign Cunha on loan from Atletico

Atletico Madrid striker Matheus Cunha on Sunday agreed a loan deal with rock-bottom English Premier League side Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. The 23-year-old Brazilian moved to Spain from Hertha Berlin in Germany in 2021 for a fee of €26 million. Cunha will join Wolves on January 1 subject to work permit approval with a permanent deal – reportedly worth a club-record £43million – an option.

LPGA record title winner Kathy Whitworth no more

Kathy Whitworth, the most successful LPGA golfer with a record 88 titles, has died at the age of 83, the women's Tour announced on Sunday. Her wins are six more than Sam Snead and Tiger Woods, who hold the career record for the men's game. Her first LPGA title came at the 1962 Kelly Girls Open and her last was captured at the 1985 United Virginia Bank Classic.

RBNCC-A gains first innings points against TMG

MYSURU: L. Hemanth Kumar's century (100, 7x4, 2x6), and useful contributions from B. Dheemanth (94) and Mohammed Aqib (80), helped RBNCC-A gain the vital first innings lead and points against The Mysore Gymkhana, in their drawn two-day KSCA Mysore zone Ist division league match played at the JSS-SJCE grounds here.

The scores: I div.: The Mysore Gymkhana 186 in 63.2 overs (V.L. Suraj 104, L. Manvanth Kumar 3/37) & 82/1 in 17 overs (Suraj 45 n.o., M.S. Swaroop 27 n.o.) drew with RBNCC-A 360/5 decl. in 65 overs (L. Hemanth Kumar 100, B. Dheemanth 94, Mohammed Aqib 80, Manvanth 40, K.P. Mahesh 3/99). Mysore City Gymkhana 262 in 63.1 overs (S. Raviraj 58, S. Sachin 55, K. Gagandeep 37, A.M. Chethan 31, Ganesh 25, M. Sachin Pande 3/77, Uma Shankar 3/77) & 135 in 38 overs (K. Gagandeep 66, Uma Shankar 3/49, Abinith Gowli 3/21) drew with Yuvaraja's College 175 in 35.3 overs (K.N.Yogesh 47 n.o., M.P. Sachin Pande 43, V. Anirudh 36) & 180/7 in 38 overs (Sachin Pande 77, Abinith 35, Darun L. Reddy 33, S. Gowtham 7/52).

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 2nd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 a.m.

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.

Pakistan vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 a.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Riding the high of an innings win, Karnataka looks to keep the momentum going

After a topsy-turvy outing against Jharkhand, Goa will have to put in the extra effort to keep the visitors in check

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
PANAJI

A confident Karnataka will strive to gain maximum points against Goa in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group C encounter which commences here on Tuesday.

Karnataka enters this fixture on the back of an innings victory over Pondicherry at Bengaluru. A dominant Karnataka wrapped up the fixture inside three days at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Goa, on the other hand, has recorded draws in its two games. At Jamshedpur a few days ago, Goa narrowly missed out on taking the first-innings lead against Jharkhand. Captain Darshan Misal and wicket-keeper-batter Eknath Kerkar made seventies to get the side close to Jharkhand's total of 386, but eventually fell 24 runs short.

Jharkhand then declared early to push for an outright win, but Goa managed to hold on for a draw.

Karnataka had little trouble dismantling Pondicherry. Pacers Vidwath Kaverappa, Vyshak Vijaykumar and Ronit More ran through the Pondicherry batting line-up, as the home team bowled out the opposition for 170 and 127.

Opener R. Samarth made a classy 137 to ensure that Karnataka had to bat only once.

The unit will hope that the young and talented Vishal Onat comes good. Onat has featured in two First Class games, and has scores of 33, 14 and 4. The experienced Manish Pandey is due for a big one as well. Pandey did show signs of form with a 78-ball 45 against Pondicherry.

All-rounder Shreyas Gopal only got to bowl two overs in that encounter, with coach P.V. Shashikanth explaining that Shreyas will be called into action if a match drifts into the fourth day. If Karnataka makes short work of Goa, it might be another light few days in the field for Shreyas.

Shashikanth stated that his side will look to keep the winning momentum going. "We don't know what is in store for us in Goa, but we will go all out and try to get maximum points. We want to keep our momentum going through the season. The boys look good, and are high on confidence. However, we must not be complacent," Shashikanth said.

In form: Kaverappa, along with Vyshak and Ronit, played his part in Karnataka wrapping up the match against Pondicherry inside three days. SUDHAKARA JAIN

RANJI TROPHY ROUND 3 SCHEDULE

Elite: Group A: Baroda vs. Uttar Pradesh (Vadodara); Uttarakhand vs. Himachal Pradesh (Dehradun); Odisha vs. Haryana (Cuttack); Nagaland vs. Bengal (Sovima).
Group B: Mumbai vs. Saurashtra (Mumbai); Delhi vs. Tamil Nadu (Delhi); Hyderabad vs. Assam (Hyderabad); Andhra vs. Maharashtra (Vizianagaram).
Group C: Jharkhand vs. Services (Jamshedpur); Goa vs. Karnataka (Porvorim); Pondicherry vs. Rajasthan (Pondicherry); Kerala vs. Chhattisgarh (Thumba).
Group D: Vidarbha vs. Jammu & Kashmir (Nagpur); Madhya Pradesh vs. Railways (Indore); Gujarat vs. Chandigarh (Ahmedabad); Tripura vs. Punjab (Agartala).
Plate: Sikkim vs. Mizoram (Rangpo); Meghalaya vs. Bihar (Shillong); Arunachal Pradesh vs. Manipur (Anand).

Arjun holds Carlsen, shares lead; Humpy joint second

Sports Bureau

Arjun Erigaisi signed off his brilliant day's work with a comfortable 44-move draw against favourite and fellow-leader Magnus Carlsen to be part of a four-player leaders' group after five rounds of the World rapid chess championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Monday.

The other two leaders at 4.5 points are Vladislav Fedoseev (FIDE) and Jorden van Foreest (Netherlands).

In the earlier rounds, Arjun defeated Nderim Saraci (Kosovo), Raunak Sadhwani, Vahap Sanal (Turkey) and second seed Richard Rapport (Romania).

Nihal Sarin (4), too, was brilliant during his unbeaten run. He defeated Alisher Suleymenov (Kazakhstan), Alexei Fedorov (FIDE), Giga Quparadze (Georgia) and drew with Fedoseev and Yu Yangyi (China) to stay within striking distance of the leaders.

Vidit Gujrathi, Surya Shekhar Ganguly, Abhimanyu Puranik, Aravindh Chithambaram, S.L. Narayanan, Sankalp Gupta, Raunak Sadhwani (3 each), P. Harikrishna, B. Adhiban (2.5 each),V. Pranav, Harsha Bharathakoti (2 each), Arjun Kalyan and N. Srinath (1.5 each) are the other Indians in the fray.

For each game, a player gets 15 minutes and a 10-second increment for every completed move.

After four rounds in the women's section, K. Humpy (3.5 points) shared the second spot with four others behind 17th seed Valentina Gunina (4).

Humpy defeated Enkhtuul Altan-Ulzii (Mongolia), Mariam Mkrtchyan (Armenia), drew with Meruert Kamalidenova and overpowered Gong Qianyun (Singapore).

With seven rounds to go, D. Harika (2.5 points, 32nd place), B. Savitha Shri (2.5 points, 33rd), Padmini Rout (2 points, 43rd) and Tania Sachdev (2 points, 59th) have their tasks cut out.

Hugh Capet claims Shravan Kumar Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer Magan Singh's ward Hugh Capet, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won the Shravan Kumar Memorial Cup, the main event of Monday's (Dec. 26) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Akshay Kumar won four races on the day.

1. ASTONISH PLATE: HIGH COMMAND (Akshay Kumar) 1, Warwick (B. Nikhil) 2, Ashwa Gajraj (G. Naresh) 3 and Toffee (Afroz Khan) 4. 6, 4 and Shd. 1m, 11.93s. ₹12 (w), 12, 24 and 24 (p). SHP: 93, THP: 82, SHW: 12 and 46, FP: 82, Q: 82, Tanala: 591. Favourite: High Command. Owner: Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. STORM TROOPER PLATE: PICTURE ME (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Doe A Deer (Aneel) 2, Deccan Ranger (Santosh Raj) 3 and Sporting Smile (Ajay Kumar) 4. 1-1/4, 1-1/2 and Hd. 1m, 12.97s. ₹13 (w), 11, 10 and 29 (p). SHP: 24, THP: 52, SHW: 14 and 16, FP: 27, Q: 27, Tanala: 153. Favourite: Picture Me. Owner: Mr. G. Krishnamohan Rao. Trainer: D. Netto.

3. DILAGE PLATE: ICE BERRY (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Star Babe (Shivansh) 2, Sucker Punch (B. Nikhil) 3 and Explosive (Mohit Singh) 4. Not run: Francis Bacon. 2-1/4, 2-3/4 and Nk. 1m, 26.58s. ₹32 (w), 14, 13 and 17 (p). SHP: 54, THP: 40, SHW: 20 and 24, FP: 131, Q: 68, Tanala: 960. Favourite: Angel Tesoro. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

4. DYNAMIC DANCER CUP: ALABAMA (Akshay Kumar) 1, Acrobat (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Queen Blossom (Md. Ismail) 3 and Golden Inzio (Aneel Kolltur) 4. 3, 3/4 and Hd. 1m, 41.31s. ₹16 (w), 11, 13 and 26 (p). SHP: 22, THP: 61, SHW: 12 and 25, FP: 28, Q: 22, Tanala: 263. Favourite: Alabama. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

5. GANGOTRI PLATE: ARBA WAHED ARBA (Afroz Khan) 1, Jack Daniel (Gaurav Singh) 2, Ar Superior (Santosh Raj) 3 and Wot's Up Jay (B. Nikhil) 4. 4-1/4, Nose and 1-1/2. 1m, 27.49s. ₹66 (w), 17, 21 and 13 (p). SHP: 67, THP: 54, SHW: 53 and 25, FP: 313, Q: 204, Tanala: 963. Favourite: Ar Superior. Owners: Mr. Mir Saqafath Ali Khan & Md. Sultan. Trainer: Raza Shehzad.

6. SHRAVAN KUMAR MEMORIAL CUP: HUGH CAPET (Akshay Kumar) 1, Barbet (B. Nikhil) 2, Fly Tothe Stars (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Candy Girl (Gaurav Singh) 4. 1-1/4, Nose and 1/2. 1m, 37.96s. ₹31 (w), 13, 11 and 27 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 65, SHW: 32 and 10, FP: 68, Q: 30, Tanala: 541. Favourite: Barbet. Owner: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Trainer: Magan Singh.

7. STORM TROOPER PLATE: BANGOR ON DEE (Akshay Kumar) 1, High Reward (R.S. Jodha) 2, Protocol (B. Nikhil) 3 and Sorry Darling (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1/2, 5-1/2 and 5-1/2. 1m, 12.11s. ₹25 (w), 12, 13 and 13 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 40, SHW: 15 and 18, FP: 96, Q: 45, Tanala: 155. Favourite: Bangor On Dee. Owners: Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur & Mr. Vazhaparmbil John Joseph. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹2,141 (105 tkts.) & 30%: 403 (239 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 107 (282 tkts.), (ii) 665 (81 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 131 (176 tkts.), (ii) 297 (125 tkts.).

Dakshita holds Soumya in first round

Sports Bureau

Rajasthan's Dakshita Kumawat provided the surprise of the opening round of the MPL National women's chess championship after holding the 2010 champion and third seed Soumya Swaminathan in 31 moves at Kolhapur on Monday.

Leading results (first round): Kheerthi Ganta lost to Vantika Agrawal; Divya Deshmukh bt Aditi Kayal; Dakshita Kumawat drew with Soumya Swaminathan; Mary Ann Gomes bt Fatima Marium; Swara Lakshmi Nair lost to Bhakti Kulkarni; M. Mahalakshmi bt Rajanya Datta Sagar Siya lost to Rucha Pujari; Sakshi Chitlange bt Cera Dagariya; Kalyani Sirin lost to Isha Sharma; Arpita Mukherjee bt Saniya Tadavi.

Hero! Sandeep heading in Blasters' match-winner. R.K. Nithin

Hemanth Muddappa headlines a competitive field

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The curtains will come down on the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship 2022 at the Madras International Circuit here this week with second, third and fourth round set to be held from Tuesday to Friday.

While the first round of the four-round Championship was held in July, the subsequent outings could not be held as scheduled due to monsoon rains and the Mandous cyclone that severely impacted the region. The promoter, Madras Motor Sports Club has decided to bunch the remaining three rounds and complete the championship over the next four days with Tuesday reserved for practice sessions.

Close to 150 entries, across eight categories, have been received While the first round of the four-round Championship was held in July, the subsequent outings could not be held as scheduled due to rains

Close to 150 entries, across eight categories, have been received with MMSC incentives, the riders to compete in all three rounds this week.

Headlining the highly competitive field is reigning national champion Hemanth Muddappa representing Mantra Racing team from Bengaluru. In the first round in July, Muddappa won two National championship races and one support race, and he is expected to extend his domination this week.

Indian women stole the limelight with creditable displays through the year

HOCKEY REVIEW

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Indian hockey teams continued their upward trend in 2022, with the women's side slightly outperforming their male counterparts by clinching a Commonwealth Games medal – a bronze after 16 years.

In Birmingham, both the Indian teams picked up their third CWG medals. While the men won silver, the women bagged a podium finish after 16 years. The Indian women had won gold at Manchester in 2002 and silver at Melbourne four years later.

Towards the end of the year, the women proved that the CWG bronze was not a fluke as they continued their upward graph under Dutch coach Janneke Schopman, defeating Spain 1-0 to win the inaugural FIH Nations Cup in Valencia and qualify for 2023-24 FIH Pro League.

The women had finished in their debut Pro League season in 2021-22 but failed to qualify for the 2022-23 season.

The year had started on a bright note for the women's team as it finished third in the Asia Cup. The Indians, however, lost out on a medal in the Junior World Cup after losing to England in the bronze-medal game. The women endured a forgettable World Cupfinishing ninth.

Proud moment: The women's team is all smiles after securing bronze at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. GETTY IMAGES

Big loss

Thogh the Indian men's team witnessed success in 2022, the most notable being the silver in Birmingham, it would still be smarting from the 7-0 drubbing at the hands of Australia in the CWG final.

But the men had their share of success as well. They began the year with a third-place finish in the Asia Cup and followed it up by winning the inaugural FIH Hockey 5s tournament in Lausanne, where they beat Poland in the final.

In between, India also won the 10th Sultan of Johor Cup, an international men's under-21 tournament, beating Australia 4-5 on penalties.

India played three Pro League matches, two against New Zealand and one against Spain, at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

While India defeated New Zealand 4-3 and 7-4, they lost 2-3 to Spain.

Towards the end of the year, the men's team toured Australia for a five-Test series where it lost 4-1.

Change of guard

The year also witnessed a change of guard in the national federation with former skipper Dilip Tirkey becoming the president of Hockey India.

Sandeep's strike helps Blasters finish year on a high

ISL-9

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

Three minutes after an indecisive Mark Leskovic fluffed a golden chance from close following a freekick, the Kerala Blasters found their match-winner against Odisha FC in the Indian Super League at the Nehru Stadium here on Monday night.

The Odisha goalkeeper Amrinder Singh appeared a bit confused too in the 86th minute when substitute Bryce Miranda sent a lovely, long cross from the left.

Amrinder jumped but he could only wave air as the ball floated past him. And defender Sandeep Singh, who was nearby, hungrily headed it home to give Blasters a 1-0 victory.

Moving to third spot

That goal saw the Blasters finish the year on a high as they jumped from from fifth to third in the league table with 22 points from 11 matches. It was also their sixth victory from their last seven games. Meanwhile, Odisha retained its sixth spot with 19 points.

The match, for a major part, was an insipid affair and came to life only close to the 75th minute. With the defence holding strong on both ends, the only piece of exciting action in the first half was when Odisha's Raynier Fernandes' attempt hit the bar minutes after the start.

That was probably Odisha's best chance too.

The result: Kerala Blasters 1 (Sandeep Singh 86) bt Odisha FC 0.